

Acts 8:26-39
Cross Brand C3:16
5.13.26
Source: John MacAuthor

I. God sets up the scenario to share the gospel

²⁶ An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: “Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is the desert road.^[d]) ²⁷ So he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man, a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem ²⁸ and was sitting in his chariot on his way home, reading the prophet Isaiah aloud.

²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go and join that chariot.”

³⁰ When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you’re reading?”

A. There are two barriers that exists from people trusting in Christ

--Our spiritual condition

Eph 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins

--Satan

II Cor 4:3-4 ³ But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,^[a] who is the image of God.

B. God created the perfect scenario for the seeker to believe

C. God tells Philip through the spirit to go without explanation

D. God had already placed the Ethiopian in the proper location and “seeker” mindset

---- About the Ethiopian

He was a man of influence!

He was a Eunuch

He was a seeker

He was religious

He was an outsider

He was ready to be saved

II. God sent Philip at just the right time

A. The anatomy of a true decision to follow Christ

³⁰ When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you’re reading?” ³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone guides me?”

So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the Scripture passage he was reading was this:

**He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb is silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.**

³³ **In his humiliation justice was denied him.**

Who will describe his generation?

For his life is taken from the earth.^[c]

³⁴ The eunuch said to Philip, “I ask you, who is the prophet saying this about—himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus, beginning with that Scripture.

--Philip began with a question

“Questions stir the should while comments harden the conscience” Unknown

--Philip shared the gospel with kindness

--Philip leveraged the word

I Peter 3:15 ¹⁵ but in your hearts regard^[a] Christ^[b] the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

--Philip kept the conversation Christ centered

B. The results of the conversation

³⁶ As they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, “Look, there’s water. What would keep me from being baptized?” ^[f] ³⁸ So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any longer but went on his way rejoicing.

--The Ethiopian made a profession of faith through baptism

--The Ethiopian experienced joy

C. **What can we learn from Philip**

--We need to pay attention to promptings

--We need to focus on Christ during the conversation with a seeker

Col 1:6 that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.

--We need to submit to God's providential placing

--We need to approach seekers with the right method

--We need to be available for God's leading and opportunities

II Tim 2:20-21 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. ²¹ Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.