

Energized for Mission - The Search for More

Isaiah 56:1-8; Acts 8:26-40

We live in a world and in a culture that encourages us to keep searching for more. We all live with a sense that something - "it" - is _____. If we can just get more of ... (pleasure, wealth, applause, power) we'll be ok. Unfortunately, if you ask those that have gotten _____, they will tell you it's not all it's cracked up to be.

"I have a lot of money, clothes, cars, accolades, achievements, awards, and I was still unfulfilled...I thought [it] was going to make everything good...What is this worth if I'm still feeling empty inside?" - Justin Bieber

If you asked the Ethiopian Eunuch, he'd tell you something similar. He has made tremendous _____ to make it to the "top." He has sacrificed time, energy, and resources. He has given up the right to have a _____. Yet, here he is on an even more _____ search for more. Important for us to remember!

He gave up 3 months of his life in _____ time. He rode a chariot and had his own scroll of Isaiah. The trip cost a _____. Despite these sacrifices, when he gets to Jerusalem, he cannot _____ the temple. (Deut 23:1) He is still not _____. He must have gone home very _____.

But _____ is also on a search for more: more lost _____, more ethnicities, more racial groups, from more unique territories for his eternal kingdom. So, by way of the Holy Spirit, God sends Philip to meet this eunuch.

When Philip finds him, he is reading the _____. A great way to start a conversation about _____! He's reading Isaiah 53. He may have already read Isaiah 56 where eunuchs are _____ a place in God's family: *"I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off."* Isaiah 56:5.

Now he's looking back at how the promise of Isaiah 56 is made possible by the suffering _____ of Isaiah 53; someone who is "cut off" so that those who are now "cut off" could be brought _____.

But he needs help figuring out who this person is! (Acts 8:31,34-35) We all need _____ from brothers and sisters in Christ to squeeze every bit of _____ and insight from God's Word. (That's why we encourage the Faith5, offer Life Groups, podcasts, and worship in person every week. Hint! Hint!)

The eunuch hears the Good News about Jesus from Philip and _____ it. He asks to be baptized and Philip does it. Then, he "went on his way _____." The search was _____! He found what he'd been looking for! A place! In an eternal kingdom, in spite of his deficiencies, because someone he never met was willingly "cut off" from everyone in his place.

Brothers and sisters, this is what we have in Christ! Why are we letting Satan _____ us to something more?

This is also what the world needs more than anything right now. It's a mess because everyone is looking for MORE in all the _____ places. What if we brought it to them? What if we obeyed the voice of the Spirit immediately every time he spoke? What if we listened for those chance encounters - _____ appointments - that God has set up in advance for us? What if we leaned into the relationships we already have?

Instead of outrage, anger, frustration and evil, imagine more people "went on their way _____" in Christ.

Where are you still searching for more from things that can't give it to you?

How is the Holy Spirit leading you to more of the only One who can?

Who around you is looking in all the wrong places?

How is the Holy Spirit leading you to "go over and join this chariot"?

What are you going to DO in response to what Christ has already DONE?