

Beautiful Feet: When the Right Person Intervenes

Growth Group Discussion

Acts 8:26-40

Opening Questions (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God's word.
 - How do you feel about the prospect of talking to non-believers about Jesus? Excited? Intimidated? Other? Be honest!
 - Do you ever wonder how the good news is going to penetrate the lives of people in our community? How easy or difficult is it for you to envision that happening?
1. Before reading today's focal passage, **read Acts 1:8**. These final words of Jesus play a critical role in understanding the rest of the book of Acts, because Luke, the author, is going to show how these words are fulfilled.
 - What do you notice here about the source of power for the mission Jesus' followers will carry out?
 - To what degree do you think this power source is available for us in our mission today?
 - What do you notice here about the geographical spread of the gospel?
 2. **Read Acts 8:26-40, and discuss the following.**
 - In what ways do you see the Holy Spirit's involvement in this story? (The Spirit initiates Philip's trip to this road, through a divine message; the Spirit prompts Philip to stay near the chariot; etc.).
 - What do you know about eunuchs, either from this week's sermon, or from other sources? What all can you deduce about the Ethiopian man in this story?
 - Read Isaiah 56:4-5. What bearing, if any, do you think these verses have on today's story in Acts 8?
 - How does this story fulfill Jesus' words in Acts 1:8?
 3. The big idea of Sunday's sermon is that ***the Holy Spirit propels the good news***—it is his role, from start to finish. Discuss the following applications of that principle.
 - In what way does this truth relieve you of pressure? Or does it?
 - As a result, ***we are to notice the promptings of the Holy Spirit***, and then act on them. Invite people to share about a time when they have experienced a prompting from the Spirit. What was it like? What was the result?
 - Just as Stephen was told to go near the chariot and stay near it (before speaking), ***our role in bringing good news often begins with a posture of listening***.
 - How has this fact been part of your own faith journey, either when you first came to faith or in your continued growth? Did someone take a listening posture with you?
 - How does Philip, in the story, assess where the eunuch is in his spiritual journey? Have you ever seen your role in evangelistic conversations as ***assessing where people are, and helping them take the next step***? Why or why not?

- Think of a relationship with someone who needs a relationship with Jesus. How could you take this posture of listening with them?
- While the Holy Spirit sometimes uses supernatural dreams or visions to reach people, he typically ***uses messengers who are willing to share the good news with spiritually hungry people***. How do you feel about being this kind of messenger?
- When you notice an opportunity—in other words, you notice that someone is spiritually hungry, and they ask a question such as the eunuch asked Philip—how might you take that opportunity to share the good news of Jesus? Have you had the chance to do that recently? How did it turn out?
- Invite everyone to share one step they are committing to take this week, as a result of our Bible Study or discussion: perhaps it is praying for opportunities to speak about Jesus, or committing to listen better in conversations with non-believers, or committing to schedule a meal with a particular friend, etc.

PRAYER:

- Pray for the people you have mentioned during this discussion, that they will encounter Jesus, and that you will have opportunities to practice the principles we have discussed with respect to them.
- Take time also to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.