

Acts 8 “What Prevents Me?”
Acts 8:26-40
August 10, 2025

Acts 8:26-40

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. 27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” 30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34 And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”[e] 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Divine appointments.

God is preparing you for what is next because it is what’s next for them.

A royal Ethiopian eunuch.

Ceremonially unclean.

Acts 8:32-33

32 Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

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and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
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Who can describe his generation?
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“Cut off”.

Isaiah 56:3-5

3 Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say,

“The Lord will surely separate me from his people”;

and let not the eunuch say,

“Behold, I am a dry tree.”

4 For thus says the Lord:

“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,

5 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.

The heart of Gospel is substitution.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- Philip is led by an angel and by the Spirit in Acts 8. How often do you sense leadings like that? Have you ever? How do you know it is the Spirit?
- Philip was led from a productive ministry into the middle of nowhere. What is curious about that you think about God’s plans and our thoughts about what is successful and God’s will?
- Do you feel capable to walk someone from a passage of Scripture to Jesus? What would it takes to feel more confident in that?
- Getting someone to church is a good destination but not the final one. How are you currently living out your “sent-ness”?
- The Ethiopian is an outsider. What does it reveal about God by His sending of Philip to this man?
- Why do you think the gospel prompted the Ethiopian to see water and desire to be baptized? What can we glean from this response for ourselves?
- How can your Life Group help you walk out and apply this passage to your life this week?