



SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
MESSAGE TITLE: ON THE OUTSKIRTS

SPEAKER: LANE GREENLEAF-PEREZ
DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): Acts 8:26-39

The story of Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts chapter 8 is a great demonstration that the Gospel of Jesus is for everyone. In this story, the Holy Spirit sends Phillip to a desert road where he encounters this man from Ethiopia. The man fears God and is reading the Scriptures, but he would not have been well accepted by the Jewish people because he was a eunuch. Phillip sees no barriers for this man to encounter Jesus and he is almost immediately baptized. This story is a reminder to us today that anyone, no matter their background, past, or current behavior, can come to know Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably

LEAN IN

These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What's the craziest thing you've ever done to get someone's attention (recently or as a child/teen)? What did you do? Did it work?
2. If you had the power of teleportation, what would be the first place you would want to go?
3. When you hear the word "gospel" what is the first thing that comes to mind?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. What things does the Holy Spirit tell Phillip to do in this passage?
2. What does the text tell us about the person that Phillip met on the road? Where had he come from and where was he going?
3. What does Phillip ask the Eunuch? How does the Eunuch respond?
4. The Ethiopian Eunuch was reading from Isaiah 53. Look this passage up in your Bible. What question does the Eunuch ask about this passage? How does Phillip answer him?

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5. What is the Eunuch's response to what Phillip tells him? What does he ask Phillip? What does Phillip do for him?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How have you seen the Holy Spirit speak in the lives of people, both today and in the past? How is it similar or different to how Phillip is instructed by the Holy Spirit in this passage?
2. Pastor Lane pointed out in his message that eunuchs would not have been well-received by the Jewish people, even though he is seeking after God. What are groups in our own day that are not well received by the church, even if they claim to love and follow God?
3. Phillip takes advantage of what he overhears the man reading to ask him a question and create an opportunity to share the Gospel. How have you seen people do something similar in our own time?
4. What is Phillip's starting point for telling the man about Jesus? How does Phillip meet the man where he's at? How have you seen people doing something similar today?
5. Does anything surprise you about the immediacy of the man's conversion? How are such quick conversions viewed today? Do you think this is how they should be viewed? Why or why not?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit speaking in your life? How is it similar or different from what happened in this story or how we've seen the Spirit work in the book of Acts thus far?
2. Are there people or groups that you have a hard time accepting or believing they're genuine or that God would work through them? Have you ever experienced rejection by the church or religious people? How does this story challenge or encourage you?
3. Have you ever been presented an opportunity to share the Gospel to someone? What happened?
4. Phillip had a "jumping off point" to tell this man about Jesus: a Scripture verse he was reading. What are other "jumping off points" that you've had

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with people in the past or that you could imagine God using in the lives of people around you?

5. Have you ever questioned the authenticity of someone's conversion? Has your own conversion ever been questioned? How does this story encourage or challenge you?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What is one thing you could do this week to be more loving towards people or groups you have a hard time accepting?
2. Who could you share the gospel with? Pray that God would give you opportunities like Phillip had to share the good news about Jesus. If there's someone in particular that God puts on your heart, tell your group their name so they can be praying with you.
3. Have you been less than graceful towards people in progress? What is one thing you can do this week to give God space to work in your heart and life? How can your group pray for and encourage you in this process?

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the Adult Discipleship Team for this week's notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.