

ACTS 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

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

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ^[37] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Acts 8:37

Some manuscripts include here:

“Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The eunuch answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you could travel overseas, to which country would you like to go?

What do we learn about the Ethiopian eunuch, and what was he doing when Philip met him (verses 27-28)? Use commentary or study Bible notes if helpful.

How does the Holy Spirit guide Philip, and what does he do? How did Philip explain the good news about Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch?

The eunuch was reading Isaiah but needed guidance to understand it. How does this highlight the importance of discipleship and having someone to teach us in our faith?

Why do you think the Holy Spirit led Philip to this specific man? What does this say about God's concern for an individual?

Philip was prepared to share the gospel when the opportunity arose. How can you better equip yourself to explain your faith when the moment comes (see 1 Peter 3:15)?

DAILY READINGS

1. ISAIAH 53:1-12
2. LUKE 15:1-10
3. LUKE 15:11-32
4. JOHN 4:1-26
5. ROMANS 6:1-14
6. 1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23
7. ACTS 8:26-40