

Text: Acts 8:26-38

Meaning: Philip led the Ethiopian Eunuch to faith in Christ

Big Idea: We are called to lead people to faith in Christ

Objective: I want the hearers to lead people to Christ

Theme: Statements to take to heart

FORWARD IN WITNESSING

George Sweeting, in his book *The No-Guilt Guide for Witnessing*, tells of a man by the name of John Currier who in 1949 was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison. Later he was transferred and paroled to work on a farm near Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1968, Currier's sentence was terminated, and a letter bearing the good news was sent to him. But John never saw the letter, nor was he told anything about it. Life on that farm was hard and without promise for the future. Yet John kept doing what he was told even after the farmer for whom he worked had died.

Ten years went by. Then a state parole officer learned about Currier's plight, found him, and told him that his sentence had been terminated. He was a free man.

Beloved, there are people all around us who are imprisoned by all kinds of stuff. Drugs, alcohol, sexual immorality, pornography, pride, selfishness, money, wealth, success, broken relationships, broken homes – and they believe there is no hope. Sadly, many right around us every day don't realize there is freedom available in Christ! Christ won our freedom from all the brokenness of our world through His death and resurrection – today you can be set free in Christ! Sadly, many are unaware of this profound truth.

Luke 10:2

And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Jesus said THE HARVEST IS NOT THE PROBLEM, IN FACT IT NEVER HAS BEEN! The issue is THE LACK OF LABORERS!

READ ACTS 8:26-38

Acts 8 – We have an life changing encounter between one of the original Deacons named Philip and a royal official from Ethiopia where Philip shares the good news of Jesus with him and he professes Christ as Lord and is baptized.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHARING CHRIST:

1. FOLLOW THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

2. PRESENT THE GOOD NEWS

GOD – SIN – CHRIST – SALVATION

3. LEAN INTO THE RESPONSE

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES – BAPTIZING AND TEACHING

Philip, the Apostles, and the original church at Jerusalem didn't have a program they were running. They had the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the urgency of the gospel – AND THAT'S ALL THEY NEEDED.

Strategy is a good thing – BUT IT'S THE SPIRIT OF GOD THAT DRIVES US TO TELL SOMEONE ELSE AND HELP THEM GROW IN CHRIST!

Remember ACTS 1:8 – When the Spirit comes you will have POWER and you will be my WITNESSES.

It's not the STRATEGIES WE LACK – it's the powerful presence of the HOLY SPIRIT controlling our lives we lack!

MOTIVATIONAL STATEMENTS TO TAKE TO HEART:

1. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE YOUR DESERT

We read just before this that Philip has been preaching the gospel in Samaria and folks are being saved by the droves. I mean they were having church up in there! And this was a preachers dream – Scripture says crowds were coming to hear him preach. Signs and wonders were taking place. Demons were being cast out and folks were being healed of all kinds of ailments as well as people being coming to Christ for salvation. Then, out of nowhere, an angel of the Lord told Philip to leave the revival and go share Jesus with one man. Luke here makes a point to say it was a DESERT PLACE.

God calls us to desert places at times. We immediately assume that a desert place is not God's will. Take a paycut? That can't be God's will. Move away from family? That surely isn't God's plan. Leave all the blessings we have right here? No way that is God's direction.

Never underestimate your desert. What underestimate what God may be doing in those dry seasons. God is doing something there beyond what you can imagine. Just be available in that moment. Don't allow your emotions or frustrations to consume you and cause you to miss out on what the Lord wants to do in your life and in the lives of others around you.

GOD CAN DO MORE IN YOUR DESERT PLACE THAN YOU CAN EVER DO IN WHAT LOOKS LIKE GREENER PASTURES.

Be careful that you don't miss God because you're unwilling to go to the desert.

Revival is instantaneous response. The desert encounters are about long-term Kingdom impact.

WILLIAM CAREY

Carey has been called the father of the modern missions movement in the English-speaking world because of his forty-plus years as a missionary in India and the role he played as a missions apologist. But he endured incredible suffering and hardship to bring the gospel to India.

In 1793 he and his family sailed to India and within just a few years there young son Peter died, his wife began to suffer immensely with mental illness, which eventually led to her untimely death. Carey preached for 7 years before baptizing his first convert. He suffered sickness and persecution like we know not of, but he ended up establishing an incredible ministry there which saw thousands come to Christ over time.

Wherever He Leads I'll Go

Wherever He leads I'll go – Wherever He leads I'll go
I'll follow my Christ who loved me so
Wherever He leads I'll go

2. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF ONE LIFE

Ethiopian Official

He's successful, he's influential, he's powerful, he's wealthy, he's dignified – YET HE'S HUMBLE.

You never know what God is doing in someone's heart! By the way, for those in the room or watching online today – power, wealth, influence, and worldly success mean nothing without Jesus. But with him – all that influence and wealth can be incredibly impactful. Paul told Timothy to teach those who are rich in this life to be generous and ready to share to build God's Kingdom.

God loves the UP AND OUT and the DOWN AND OUT!

God called Philip to go and share Christ with one royal official on a desert road. This sounds like an unimportant event in terms of the history of the New Testament Church, just one guy who got saved.

But, this royal official coming to Christ OPENED THE GOSPEL TO AN ENTIRELY NEW CONTINENT, THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA. Before this Christianity and the gospel had been predominantly a Hebrew thing. Also, keep in mind that this is before Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, so the gospel has not gone to Asia Minor yet either.

This one encounter led to the gospel moving to a whole new country and continent.

Church, you never know what kind of impact just one prayer, one act of kindness, one act of generosity, and just one gospel conversation can make in someone's life, or in the world for that matter.

What is the value of one life?

BILLY GRAHAM ILLUSTRATION

One November 7, 1918 a baby boy was born in the downstairs bedroom of a farmhouse just outside Charlotte, North Carolina to a hard working and no-nonsense dairy farming family. This family also just happened to be strong followers of Jesus and they raised their son in the Word of God and the Church. In May 1934 some Christian businessmen from Charlotte approached the family and asked if they could host an all-day prayer meeting at their farm, and the couple gladly agreed. On that day a particular prayer was raised – that the Lord would raise up someone right from Charlotte that would preach the gospel to the ends of the earth. Later that year the traveling evangelist Mordecai Ham came to town and the 16 year old son of those dairy farmers came to Christ. What was the name of the family you ask – William and Morrow Graham – their son – the reverend Billy Graham – arguably the greatest worldwide evangelist for Christ in American history.

ALL BECAUSE OF ONE DAY, ONE PRAYER MEETING, ONE PREACHING REVIVAL SERVICE.

Today – what is the value of one life?

Psalm 139:13-16

*¹³ For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.^[a]
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.*

You are fearfully and wonderfully made by God – precious in His sight – on this earth by God's divine design and the object of his love and affection. He sent his one and only son to die for you and offers you the free gift of eternal life.

Today – come to Christ?

Also, Church – what is the value of the life of that one co-worker? That one neighbor? That classmate/teammate? What is their eternal soul worth?

Today, let's give, serve, and share the gospel committed to the belief that every life is a life worth saving!

3. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE GOD'S ABILITY TO WORK THROUGH YOU

Best we can tell from the Scripture Philip was just one of the original folks who got saved in the early church at Jerusalem, but by his faithful walk with the Lord and through his faithful service God began to raise him up to lead. Before this he was just a faithful church member then a faithful deacon servant in the church, serving food to the widows and worshipping God. God took this normal everyday Joe if you will and turned him into a powerhouse for the gospel.

Philip is just a normal guy – and he leads a royal official to Jesus.

Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

OBEDIENCE

Philip ran to meet the Chariot by the prompting of the Holy Spirit and simply shared what He knew.

We are called to share. God is the one who saves.

What do I say? JUST TELL THEM YOUR STORY.
How you came to Christ.