

Acts 8:26-40 The Ethiopian eunuch

Introduction

- Book of acts
 - Some of us don't know how to study the Bible
 - Acts is a great book to learn how to do a Bible study
 - Several historical accounts of real people
- Chapter 8:26-40 surface level
 - Salvation of the Ethiopian eunuch
 - Baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch
 - Miracle of teleportation
- Chapter 8:26-40 under the surface
 - Fulfillment of old testament prophecy Isaiah 56:4-5
 - leading of the Holy spirit
 - Jesus throughout the scriptures

Read the passage

- after reading passage
 - We are going to make some observations
 - Then we are going to ask what they mean
 - Next we will see how we can apply them to our lives
 - Pray!!!

Where do we see

What places do we see

- Jerusalem to Gaza (47 miles in a straight line)
 - The way that goes South
 - Dessert

- Jerusalem to Ethiopia (2600 miles drive)
- Azotus to Caesarea
 - All the cities

Who do we see

- 3 People we will cover today
 - The Ethiopian eunuch
 - The unknown man - Jesus
 - Philip
- Go home and look for who else is in this chapter.
 - Candace - queen of the Ethiopians
 - Esaias - the prophet
 - The Spirit
 - Angel of the Lord

The eunuch

Seeker - a man of action

- what do we see about the Eunuch?
 - v26-27 Traveled long distance to worship
 - v28 Obtained Scripture, very expensive
 - v28-33 Read Scripture
- What does this mean?
 - The Eunuch was a man of action, who searched for God
- How does this apply to me?
 - Are you a person of action?
 - Do you search God out?
 - Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
 - Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Student

- what do we see about the Eunuch

- V28 He could read ... at a time where the majority could not read.
- V32 He read 53 chapters of Scripture.
 - He was not lazy, he was determined. This was not a book that would collect dust on his shelf.
- v31,34 Asked for help
- v34,36 Asked questions when he didn't understand.
- What does this mean?
 - The Eunuch was a student of scripture
- How does this apply to me?
 - Are you a student of Scripture?
 - 2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - Psalm 119:105 Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Believer - a man of faith

- What do we see about the eunuch
 - V37 He believed Jesus was the son of God.
 - V38 He proclaimed his belief through baptism
 - before he could be baptized Philip asked him if he was a believer
 - V39 He rejoiced
- what does this mean?
 - The eunuch was a believer, he believed God.
 - Baptism is for believers
- How does this apply to me?
 - Do you believe what the Bible says about Jesus?
 - Who do you think Jesus is?
 - John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.
 - 1 John 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

The unknown man

The unknown man in Isaiah 53:7-8

- What do we observe about this unknown man?
 - V32 he was led as a sheep to slaughter, opened not his mouth - suffered in silence
 - V33 he was humiliated
 - V33 his judgement was taken away - justice was denied him (ESV)

- V33 his life was taken
- What does this mean?
 - The unknown man was unjustly humiliated and put to death, but did not complain
- How does this apply to me?
 - How would you react if you were treated unjustly?
 - Does this description sound like anyone we know?
 - 1 Peter 2:21-24 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed [himself] to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Phillip

Phillip Identifies the unknown man using scripture

- v35 Philip's answer to the question who is this man?
 - Began at the same Scripture
 - Preached unto him Jesus
- Do we know what passage Philip preached?
 - No not exactly
- Yes we can conclude 2 things
 - 1.) Philip was teaching that the unknown man is Jesus
 - 2.) This teaching led the Eunuch to believe Jesus is the son of God
- What does this mean?
 - Phillip used scripture to identify the unknown man as Jesus, the Son of God
 - Jesus, the Son of God, was the man who was unjustly humiliated and put to death.
- Why is this important?
 - God did not sit idle as evil overcame the world. He did something at great cost to himself to defeat evil.
- How does this apply to me?
 - God wants you to know about him and about his son Jesus
 - John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.
 - 2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

What Phillip says about belief

- What does Phillip say about belief?

- V37 Philip says if you believe ...
 - Does not say if you understand
 - Does not say if you go to church
- Eunuch responds
 - v37 I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God
- What does this mean?
 - It was important to Phillip that the Eunuch believe that Jesus was the unknown man.
 - The eunuch believed that Jesus was the son of God
- How does this apply to me?
 - Do you intellectually understand that the Bible claims that Jesus is the son of God?
 - Or do you go one step further and believe this claim to be true?
 - Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith ...
 - Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Helpful Analogy

Faith - as understood with a chair

- Imagine you have just walked for several days in the hot sun
 - you are very tired and you need to sit down and rest
- As you travel you come across an object in your path
 - This object is a chair
 - You know that a chair will hold your weight if you sit in it
- Is it enough to know how sitting in a chair will give you rest?
 - If you never actually sit in the chair you will still be in need of rest.
 - If you just stand there thinking about how the chair could hold your weight so that you could rest.
- In order for you to rest you need to actually sit in the chair.
 - It is more than an intellectual exercise
 - It is the act of putting my burden on the chair instead of myself
- Jesus is that chair, that we can place our burdens on, and will give us rest.
 - John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

What do I see

terms

- V26 Angel of the Lord
- V27 eunuch
- V27 had the charge of all her treasure
- V27 Worship
- V31 some man should guide me
- V36 baptized
- V39 the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip