



SMALL GROUPS CURRICULUM

LOVING CHRIST ◦ LOVING OTHERS

SERMON

We Will See Salvation (Acts 8:25-35)

DATE

December 5/6 2015

Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.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 worship²⁸ 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.

Study Questions

1. Did any words or phrases in the passage above strike you as you re-read them? Circle, underline or highlight as you see fit.
2. In many ways **Acts 8:1** is the outward fulfillment of Jesus' words in **Acts 1:8**. How do you see the Holy Spirit moving the message of the Gospel outwards from Jerusalem? Thinking of today, how does this growth in the book of Acts encourage the church, and you personally?
3. Why do you think Luke (who wrote the book of Acts) included "This is a desert place" in verse 26? Contrast this with what is happening in verse 25. Can you recall a time when you were called to a "strange obedience," or is there an area in your life right now where that seems true?
4. Take a moment to pray and reflect on **Psalms 139:23-24**. What area of obedience is there that you just do not want to "go," or what is it that you just do not want to "do"?
5. What clues do you find in verse 27 that describe the kind of man that the Ethiopian eunuch was?
6. Do you think opportunities exist to share the gospel with others in your life that you don't see? Why don't we see them?
7. Was there a season in your life when you found yourself to be more engaged in sharing Christ? How can we stir a greater affection for the lost and our part to share Christ with them this Christmas season? Is it just a matter of willing ourselves into obedience, or is there something more?
8. The truths that struck the eunuch as he sat reading the chariot that fateful day were from Isaiah 53:7-8. Take some of your time to slowly read through all of **Isaiah 53**. Which truths speak most powerfully to you today?



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9. As Christmas draws near, we take time as believers this season to treasure and trust Christ. This comes, as we learned this weekend from ¹: seeing that God is in control of everything, that ² the Bible is powerful to change lives (v32-33), and that ³ Jesus is our only hope in life and death (v34-35). Which truth is especially dear to you this Christmas?
10. Use the chart below to examine the story of the Ethiopian eunuch as a whole. Does anything strike you as especially significant/comforting/encouraging?

| Person | Role/Responsibility |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Philip | |
| Ethiopian Eunuch | |
| God | |