

Title: **Rolling with the Eunuch: Seven Principles for Growing in the Gospel**
Text: **Acts 8:26-40**
Date: **June 23, 2024**

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Big Idea

As we roll along with the eunuch in our text, we learn what it looks like to move towards God and grow in the gospel!

Principle #1: Make the Trip

Though, to this eunuch's dismay, no doubt, he comes to find he's not able to enter the assembly there in the temple—because he's a Gentile and a eunuch—nevertheless, it is his willingness to make the trip that puts him in position to be encountered on that road by Philip . . . and by God. He didn't meet YHWH in the way he first anticipated, but, make no mistake, YHWH met him!

This is where growing in the gospel starts. You just commit to showing up. Whether you're a seeker, still just curious about Christian faith, or you've been a Christian now for many years; whether you've got to go across the street or across the globe . . . you make the trip!

Principle #2: Open the Book

Your time reading the Bible is not always going to be awesome. It's not always going to be fire—where you're just struck by the glory of God and you're on your face weeping and amazed at the grace shown you in Jesus. Sometimes you're left scratching your head saying: "I don't get it. How could I get it?" But you put yourself there in the way of God's presence anyways. And you plead with him along the lines of Ps. 119:18: "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law." You commit to opening the book and, in time, wouldn't you know it . . . God will open himself to you!

Principle #3: Ask for Help

The way I see it, there are two kinds of people in this room here this morning: those who need help and humbly and appropriately ask for it; and those who need help but proudly and perilously pretend they don't (for whatever reason). Which one are you going to be?

Principle #4: Embrace His Grace

I am convinced that, even if you were the only person on earth who needed saving, Jesus still would have come down and gone through with the agony of the cross. Because you matter that much to him, and you're loved that much by him . . . more than you could ever know. He leaves the ninety-nine to come after the one (Luke 15:4-5).

Principle #5: Take the Plunge

If you hear God's voice today, act on it, whatever it may be. Because if you plug your ears to it now you may not hear it any longer. We are either opening to God or we are closing. We are either softening to him or we are hardening. We don't get the option of staying neutral. And the thing that determines which way we're headed is what we do with what he's asking of us today.

Principle #6: Rejoice in God

"The enjoyment of God is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows; but God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun. These are but streams, but God is the ocean" (*The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, 17:437-438).

Principle #7: Go on Your Way

Sometimes God saves us and he sends us somewhere else. But a lot of times he saves you and he sends you right back to "Ethiopia"—to the same old places filled with the same old people, because they, above anyone else, can see: you're not the same; you've been changed by Jesus. And we get to share our joy with them!



Reflection Questions

- How would you say you've been doing lately in "growing in the gospel"? Which of the seven principles outlined in this message seems most significant to you and why? Which comes easiest to you? Which comes hardest? What's one thing you can do this week to grow?

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Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

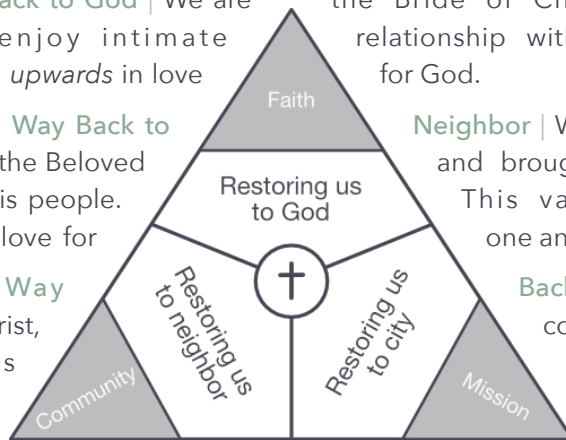
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

New Men's DNA Group - Frontline Men!

The Christian life is a battle that is worth fighting till the very end. Unfortunately, many Christian men today have all but abandoned the good fight that Christ has called us to. We often sit on the sidelines and ignore costly discipleship for the sake of comfort or avoiding fear. It is time for Christian men to get back on the frontlines of the spiritual battle. It is time for us to wage war against the kingdom of darkness and advance the kingdom of God; first in our own lives, then in the world.

The goal of this group is to call men out of the snares of isolation, sexual sin, and cultural Christianity and into a radical lifestyle of following Jesus, no matter the cost. During our gatherings, we will take time to bond with each other in fellowship, study Scripture together, encourage one another to grow in our accountability and discipleship, and pray for one another. We hope you can join!

Please scan the QR code below to find more info and a link to sign up!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Joseph at joseph.d@decisionpoint.org.

Mercy Hill Kids Summer Park Days

Campbell & Cupertino Home Group:
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