

VILLAGE

CHURCH

Bible Study Notes

Intro Question:

1. Have you ever shared the good news of Jesus with a stranger?

Aim/Prayer: for a fresh reminder of who Jesus is and why it's good news.

Read: Acts 8:26-40

Questions about the passage:

1. Who is Philip? What is a Eunuch? Why do you think Eunuch's were excluded from worshipping in the temple? See Deuteronomy 23:1.
2. What are all the ways God's providence was at work to make this event happen?
3. How does this indicate further fulfillment of Jesus' promise in Acts 1:8?
4. How does Isaiah 53 point to the good news of Jesus? And for that matter, Isaiah 56:3-8.
5. What is the result of the Eunuch receiving the good news?

Questions for us:

1. Should we expect this sort of event to happen today to us?
2. Do you pray for or ready yourself for an opportunity like this? How could you?
3. Have you ever experienced a 'divine appointment'?
4. How would you describe the good news of Jesus?
5. Why should the good news bring us joy?

Pray: through the passage, for each other, for Village Church and for our local community.

Homework: pray for God to help you share the good news with someone this week.

Remind: prayerfully consider giving to October Appeal

Praying to see 10% of the northern suburbs in gospel-centred churches & 250 by 2030 at Village Church who grow, gather, give & go, in love & joy to the glory of God

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The Book of Acts is all about what happened in the few years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. In his final command, Jesus said to his followers, go and make disciples of all nations. So, that's what they do. But not alone. God's Holy Spirit is with them to grow his Church in number and in maturity.

This week, we read about a 'divine appointment' where someone far from God is brought to the good news of Jesus.

Questions about the passage:

- *Who is Philip? What is a Eunuch? Why do you think Eunuch's were excluded from worshipping in the temple? See Deuteronomy 23:1.*

Philip, the evangelist is different to Philip who was one of the 12. He, like Stephen was one of the 7 people appointed to look after the welfare of the Church in Acts 6. He is a gifted evangelist. A Eunuch is someone who has been castrated (usually at a young age) to serve their King/Queen/Pharaoh and be able to enter their harem (where the wives live) without having to worrying about sleeping with them. Eunuch's were most likely not allowed to serve in God's temple because they represented a breaking of God's covenant in the sense of his command to Adam to be fruitful and multiply and as such there is a kind of permanent 'blemish' or imperfection.

- *What are all the ways God's providence was at work to make this event happen? There are several ways. God had prepared this Eunuch's heart (he was already a believer in Yahweh). He had the Scriptures and had been directed to Isaiah 53. Then God has brought Phillip to him and enabled Phillip to teach him the good news. It's also providence that the Jordan river was right there!*

- *How does this indicate further fulfillment of Jesus' promise in Acts 1:8? The good news and the Holy Spirit's confirmation had gone to Jerusalem and Samaria. Now the Spirit was spreading the good news to Jews and Gentiles beyond Jerusalem. Church history believes the Ethiopian Eunuch was the first to bring the gospel to Africa.*

- *How does Isaiah 53 point to the good news of Jesus? And Isaiah 56:3-8. Isaiah 53 has some very obvious allusions to what will later occur in Jesus life, death and resurrection. Isaiah 56:3-8 points to a time when Eunuch's who are unable to produce a biological legacy will instead have a spiritual one far greater.*

- *What is the result of the Eunuch receiving the good news? The Eunuch had great joy.*

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Questions for us:

- *Should we expect this sort of event to happen today to us?*

I think we should expect God to orchestrate events so that we can share the good news with people who need to hear it. I don't think we should expect it to always be explicit as what Phillip receives, as this is a particular moment showing the Spirit's work in expanding God's people.

- *Do you pray for or ready yourself for an opportunity like this? How could you?*

We should pray for these sort of moments and we ready ourselves by being mindful in encounters with people and conversations to see if we can share the good news.

- *Have you ever experienced a 'divine appointment'?*

Allow people time to think on this. It doesn't need to look exactly like Phillips. Maybe it was a time when you needed encouragement or reminding or even protection and on reflection you really see how God was at work.

- *How would you describe the good news of Jesus?*

Encourage people to discuss, what should be included or isn't necessary.

- *Why should the good news bring us joy?*

Allow people to discuss why it brings them joy or at least why it should, you can even talk about why doesn't it bring the joy it should sometimes? For those who are joyless, it can be good to pray Psalm 51:12