

“He Told Him the Good News About Jesus”

➤ **This Advent, let the nations be glad, for the Holy Spirit is on mission to save peoples from the ends of the earth**

** Four truths that unburden your load as you partner with the Holy Spirit in evangelism...*

1. The Spirit coordinates the spread of the gospel (8:26, 29, 39-40)

2. The Spirit knows the identity of the elect (8:27-28)

3. The Spirit reveals Christ (8:30-35)

4. The Spirit produces joyful obedience (8:36-39)

Next Week: Acts 9:1-19a “Something Like Scales Fell From His Eyes”

Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of December 3rd-10th

Context

1. Under the Old Covenant, the people of Israel largely had a “come and see” approach to missions, while the shift in the New Covenant turns to a “go and tell” approach to missions (Mt 28:18-20). That said, there is a strong expectation, recorded in the OT, that the nations will worship God. As John Piper has proclaimed, “Let all the nations be glad!”. Read some of these Psalms to learn about this expectation: Psalm 22:27; 45:17; 67; 75:9; 72:8-11; 86:9, 96:3; 102:15; 117:1; 148:11-13.
2. Read Acts 1:8. What was Jesus missionary plan for his disciples? By Acts 8:25, how far has the gospel advanced?
3. What do we already know about Philip and his ministry? Read Acts 6:1-7; 8:4-8.

Observation

1. Location, location, location. The angel of the LORD directs Philip to go. Where did Philip start out? Where is Jerusalem? Where is Gaza? What is the desert? Where is Azotus and Caesarea? What do these details contribute to the significance of this story?

2. This is a simple question, but it cannot be overlooked. How does Philip repeatedly respond to God's direction?

3. Who was the man that Philip meets in the desert: (A) Who were the Ethiopians (i.e. Cushite, Gen 2:13; Is 45:14; 20:3-5; Eze 29:10; Ps 72:9; Zech 3:10; Dan 11:43)? (B) What is a eunuch (Mt 19:12; Jer 38:7-13; Gen 39:1; Es 1:10-15)? Are eunuchs always castrated? (C) What is a court official (see Gen 39:1; Es 1:10-15)? (D) What is a "God-fearing" Gentile? (E) He was reading a scroll of Isaiah. What does this say about him?

4. How do both Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch speak in humility towards one another?

Meaning

1. Who is in charge of all that happens in this evangelistic meeting in the wilderness? Consider the overwhelming evidences that someone of divine importance is on mission to save a Gentile from the ends of the earth.

2. What is the significance of salvation coming to this Ethiopian Eunuch (see also Is 56:1-8; 55:1-5; 11:1-11; Zeph 3:9-10)?

3. About whom does Isaiah 53:6-7, and more broadly Is 52:13-53:12, refer to? If time permits, see how this passage is used in Lk 22:37; Jn 12:38; Rom 10:16; 1 Pt 2:21-25. How does Christ fulfill the prophecy of the Suffering Servant?

4. What is the significance of this baptism? How should one respond to the gospel message of Jesus, the Suffering Servant? This story teaches us about *who* can be baptized and what it means to be *part of the covenant people* of God. What is the condition for baptism (see also Ac 2:38)? Who is welcome into baptism and church membership? This story is not meant as instruction about *how* baptism should be done. How have you heard people use it towards that end?

5. Who is the source of joy? What should our joy be attached to?

Application

1. How does this passage shape your thoughts and beliefs about the work of the Holy Spirit? Evangelism? Who can be a part of God's covenant people, the church? Baptism?

2. How has your heart strayed from joy in God's sovereign work in salvation? What draws your heart away from his saving work? Repent and return to the joy that your name is written in heaven!

3. Have you been baptized? If you have heard the gospel, repented of your sins and trusted in Christ, what step will you take to enter the waters of baptism with the Mound Free church family?

4. How will this passage change your approach to evangelism this Advent season? What will you do differently? How are you encouraged? What weight has been lifted from your shoulders?