

The God Who Is (December 5, 2021) “The God Who Prepares Us”

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Acts 8:26-40

1. **Note concerning Samaria:** As a Jewish Christian, Philip would have avoided Samaria since it was considered unclean because the people (who had an Israelite heritage) had intermarried with Gentiles. The Jews would use the term “Samaritan” as an insult.

Note concerning Gaza: The road from Jerusalem to Gaza was difficult and dangerous. It was Philistine territory and Jews would not typically travel to this desert.

Read Acts 7:59, 8:1-8,12 and consider the circumstances which brought Philip to Samaria. How might this have prepared him for God’s call to go to Gaza (Acts 8:26-28)?

2. **Note concerning the Ethiopian:** Jewish law would not permit him to enter the Jerusalem Temple (Leviticus 21:18-21; Deut. 23:1). “As both a Gentile and a eunuch this man was twice over an outcast, a religious outsider, someone who could not be welcomed into God’s presence.” (Acts1-12 For You p. 115 by R. Albert Mohler, Jr.)

Identify the details of the Eunuch’s position (Acts 8:27-28) and circumstances which:

A) could have prevented him from receiving Philip’s approach and the Gospel message

B) prepared him to receive Philip and the Gospel message

3. What details and circumstances in your life **could have** prevented you from receiving the Gospel. How did the Lord prepare you to receive Him as your Savior?

4. "I take my text and make a beeline to the cross." (A quote by Charles Spurgeon from: *Ligonier.org* 11/1/2013 -Steven Lawson's The Gospel Focus of Charles Spurgeon)
"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Romans 10:15b)

Discuss how Spurgeon's comment and Romans 10:15b are reflected in Philip's response to the Eunuch (Acts 8:30-35). How does this impact your focus in relating with others?

5. What was the evidence which showed the genuineness of the Eunuch's conversion?

6. What principles do you discover from the passage involving the Eunuch and Philip that are applicable to you personally and to the body of Christ?