

## Who's your One?

Acts 8: 26-38

There are currently over 7 billion people throughout the world. Of those, roughly 1 billion claim Christianity. Within the 7 billion people, there are almost 11,500 distinct ethnic groups. Of these ethnic groups, more than 6,800 have limited access to the gospel. This translates into nearly 3.8 billion people having very limited or no access to the gospel.

I am certain you will agree these numbers are staggering. As believers commanded to fulfill the Great Commission, literally taking the gospel to the nations (all ethnic groups), this can be viewed as an overwhelming task. So, what are we do as the church? How do we possibly make an impact on such a huge number of people without Christ? Certainly, we can pray specifically for the unreached; we can give sacrificially in support of those who are going to the utter most parts of the earth; we might even have an opportunity to go and engage some unreached people on a mission trip.

These are all great strategies, and they all are needed. If I may, I would like to suggest something that each of us can begin doing right now to impact lostness in our world – begin sharing your faith with just one. I know one is merely a drop in the bucket compared to the billions apart from Christ – but God is interested in one, and one can make a tremendous impact for the Kingdom. As we examine the [insights](#) within our text, I want us to consider a challenging question – [Who's your One?](#)

**I. The Sovereignty Displayed** (26-27) – In the opening verses of our text, we discover the sovereign acts of God on display. He continues to work in much the same way today. Consider:

**A. God's Direction** (26) – [And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.](#) Philip was currently in Samaria in the midst of a great evangelistic campaign. Many were being saved by the grace of God, and yet the Lord had another assignment for Philip. He was instructed of the Lord to head south into the desert. Philip maybe didn't understand, but God had a plan and purpose.

- As believers, we need to be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit. There is lostness all around us, and I would never discourage anyone from sharing their faith, but we must be willing to seek the Lord and His guidance in our lives. I would suggest that He has a specific plan and purpose for your life. There are people we need to engage, and we will only discover where God wants us to serve through obedience guided by prayer.

**B. God's Desire (27b)** – *And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship.* God had a specific plan for Philip. In fact, Philip was sent into the desert of Gaza to reach one man. I am certain God had a plan for the eunuch's life, being a man of position as he was in Ethiopia. Many had been reached in Samaria, and yet there was one in the desert.

- As I considered this, I was reminded that our Lord is interested in one; He seeks out individuals. This comes as no surprise. We are aware that our salvation and relationship with Christ is an individual experience, and yet many times we fail to see the significance of one. If we are to reach the world for Christ, it will happen one life and relationship at a time.

**C. Philip's Devotion (27a)** – *And he arose and went.* This is simple and yet very profound. Upon hearing the instruction of the Lord, Philip arose and went. He didn't argue with God about the possibility of reaching more people in Samaria. Philip didn't allow pride to get in the way, desiring to remain in what was already a fruitful environment. God called and Philip obediently went!

- I will admit that we often have trouble seeing what God sees. We tend to argue with the Lord, trying to rationalize why His plans seem out of place or ill-timed. Like Philip, we must be willing to follow the Lord as He leads, even when we don't understand. Being obedient to share with the one He desires will produce more fruit than laboring within our own abilities in a larger setting. God has a plan and purpose for our lives and those He desires us to reach. We must follow Him without question.

**II. The Sensitivity Discovered (28-35)** – Here we discover the sensitivity within the lives of Philip and the eunuch. Both men were being sensitive to the Lord. Notice:

**A. The Condition of the Eunuch (28)** – *Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.* The eunuch was returning from Jerusalem, having been there for a religious feast. At this moment, he is reading from the book of Isaiah. Clearly, the Lord is working in the life of the eunuch, and he is seeking the Lord. The Spirit is leading the eunuch toward Christ.

- Although we fail to realize it, many are like the eunuch today, especially during this time of great uncertainty. The Lord is working in the lives of people, drawing them unto Himself. They have yet to understand it all, but they are aware the Lord is moving in their life. As we will discover, they just need someone to guide them.

**B. The Conversation with Philip (29-31a)** – Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. <sup>[30]</sup> And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? <sup>[31]</sup> And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. As Philip drew near to the eunuch, he realized the eunuch was reading Scripture. Rather than allowing this opportunity to pass, Philip got straight to the point – do you understand what you’re reading? To which the eunuch replied – how can I understand if someone doesn’t explain it? Had Philip not seized the opportunity, the eunuch may have laid the Scripture aside, and the moment to reach him would have been lost.

- I am aware of the need to build relationships, but we must share the gospel if we expect the lost to be saved. We must look for opportunities the Lord has provided to share the gospel, and maximize that opportunity. If we fail to seize it at that moment, it may be some time before it presents itself again. Continually look for opportunities to share the gospel.

**C. The Attraction of the Scripture (31b-34)** – <sup>[31b]</sup> And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. Realizing the opportunity to learn more of the Scriptures, the eunuch invited Philip to join him in the chariot. The eunuch was fixated on one of the greatest Messianic passages in the Old Testament, dealing with the obedient sacrifice of Christ for sin. The Spirit had led the eunuch to this passage, an Old Testament text that points to Christ and the gospel.

- The Word of God is imperative in reaching those apart from Christ. We must be willing to share the gospel if we expect them to be saved by grace. Don’t be afraid or ashamed to share the Word of God with those whom you are engaging in gospel conversation. I am thankful someone cared enough to share the gospel with me!

**D. The Proclamation of Philip (35)** – Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. This is the climax and focal point of this portion of text. Philip used the verses the eunuch was pondering and preached Jesus to him. Philip seized this opportunity to share the gospel with one whom the Spirit had already been leading toward Christ. The work had already been done by the Spirit, and Philip knew it was time to harvest the fruit.

- We must be willing to tell a lost and dying world about a Savior who loves them and made provision for their salvation. The Bible is the “HIM” book; it all points to Jesus and His redemptive work on the cross! Like Philip, we must be willing to proclaim it. All may not be as the eunuch – you may be sowing seed for the first time; you may be cultivating that which has already been sown, or it may be time for harvest. Regardless, we must proclaim the cross of Christ and His redemptive work!

**III. The Salvation Received (36-38)** – Here we discover the purpose for Philip leaving Samaria and heading into the desert. Through his obedience, the eunuch was saved. Consider:

**A. The Eunuch's Belief (37)** – *And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.* Apparently, the eunuch was familiar with baptism and expressed a desire to be baptized. Philip declared if you believe (referring to faith in Christ's atoning work on the cross) with all your heart, you may. The eunuch affirmed that he believed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The eunuch realized that Christ had come to provide provision for his salvation and believed the gospel by faith. He was saved by the marvelous grace of God.

- This is the heart and purpose of our efforts. I will admit that meeting social and physical needs serve as a great tool to present the gospel, but if we fail to share Jesus, we have only provided relief from suffering to those who remain lost in sin. Those apart from Christ must hear and respond to the gospel for salvation. Let's do our part to make that happen!

**B. The Eunuch's Baptism (38)** – *And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.* Following his conversion, Philip baptized the eunuch there in the desert. (God providentially provided a pool of water sufficient for a baptism there in a barren desert!) Philip embraced the significance of baptism, but he affirmed it must follow a particular order. Once one is saved by grace, they publicly profess faith in Christ through baptism. Apart from salvation, baptism is of no benefit.

- I want to emphasize that although we are commanded by our Lord to be baptized following salvation, and Baptist churches require it for membership, baptism does not save. One must believe as the eunuch did for salvation. Following salvation, baptism serves as a public profession of faith in Christ, revealing one has been raised from death unto life in Christ!

**Conclusion:** This has been an informative and challenging passage. Church, I want to remind us that God is interested in one! May I ask again – Who's your one? I pray we will all develop a burden for one individual, building a relationship while looking for the opportunity to share the gospel. If you are hearing the message today and have yet to respond to the gospel by faith, I urge you to admit your need for Christ, repent of your sin, and believe upon Him by faith unto salvation. He stands ready to save today. Won't you respond while the Spirit is leading?