

The Ethiopian Eunuch – Jesus Changes Everything.

Acts 8 v 26-40

Deuteronomy 23 v 1-2: “He who is emasculated by crushing or mutilation (*Eunuchs*) shall not enter the assembly of the Lord. ²“One of illegitimate birth (*outsiders, foreigners*) shall not enter the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his *descendants* shall enter the assembly of the Lord.

- Eunuch = person who has been emasculated (castrated). Seen as **blemished, flawed, imperfect**. Shame and offence attached to being a Eunuch.
- Foreigner = **Outsider, outcast, someone who don't belong**.
- Unfortunately, some of us feel like this.

Message today is for:

- Those that see themselves as imperfect, blemished or flawed. Who feel out of place in the house of God. Who see themselves as lesser than others, not sure if God is happy with you.
- For the outcasts, outsiders, those that feel excluded, on the fringes, looking in. You feel that you don't belong in God's house, that you are insignificant, unimportant. Does God even know that I am here today?
- Those searching for God. Where do you find Him? Where do you start?

Message is this:

- Jesus changes it all. In Jesus, you belong in the house and family of God.
- Where do you find Him? He wants you to find Him today.

Read: Acts 8 v 26-40

SEARCHING FOR GOD

Acts 8 v 26 – 40: Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert. ²⁷ So he arose and went.

- Background: Acts 8 v 4-13 – revival in Samaria: salvations, baptism, healing, deliverance, whole city turns to God. Philip is the leading evangelist there. God sends him to the desert road in Gaza. He obeys Holy Spirit. What follows is the result of his obedience.
- There are purposes and people at the other side of our obedience.

And behold, a **man of Ethiopia**, a **eunuch of great authority** under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and **had come to Jerusalem to worship**, ²⁸ was returning. And sitting in his chariot, **he was reading Isaiah the prophet**.

- Ethiopia: land where the queen of Sheba came from and saw the glory of Solomon's kingdom (1Kings 10). She professed faith in the God of Israel. Possible that pieces of the Jewish faith were passed on through the centuries to men like this Ethiopian.
- EUTHIOPIAN EUNUCH: successful man with great authority.

But still searching, looking for answers, searching for God.

- EUNUCH & FOREIGNER: could not enter the Temple of God.
- SEARCHING FOR GOD: Travelled a great distance. Ethiopia to Jerusalem.
Reading the book of Isaiah: This scroll would have cost a lot of money.

WHERE DO YOU FIND GOD? IN THE SCRIPTURES (WORD OF GOD)

Acts 17 v 1: Then Paul reasoned with them from the Scriptures,³ explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”

Acts 17 v 11 – Bereans’ response to Paul’s preaching: they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed,

Acts 18 v 28 – Apollos preaching in Achaia: he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 26 v 22 – Paul giving his testimony to king Agrippa: witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses (*the Law*) said would come— ²³ that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”

Acts 28 v 23 – Paul’s ministry in Rome: many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

- Challenge you: search the scriptures. In it, you will find Jesus, our Lord & Savior.

John 5 v 39 – Jesus addressed the Jews: You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life

- The scriptures testify of Jesus.
- In Jesus is eternal life.
- Come to Jesus, and you will receive this life.

Luke 24 v 27 - Jesus on the road to Emmaus: And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Luke 24 v 44 – Jesus appears to His disciples: These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

- Holy Spirit please open our understanding, that we might comprehend the scriptures.
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UNDERSTANDING THE SCRIPTURES (WORD OF GOD)

²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.

- Little benefit from reading the Word without understanding.

Proverbs 2 v 1: My son, if you **receive my words**, And **treasure my commands within you**, ² So that you **incline your ear to wisdom**, And **apply your heart to understanding**; ³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴ If you **seek her** as silver, And search for her as *for* hidden treasures; ⁵ Then you **will understand the fear of the Lord**, And **find the knowledge of God**.

- Search through the Word of God, apply yourself to understand, lean into the Word: Find the knowledge of God.

UNDERSTANDING – THE WORD OF GOD: IMPORTANT TO COME TO FAITH IN JESUS.

Romans 10 v 13 -15, 17: For "**whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

¹⁴ **How then shall they call on Him** in whom **they have not believed?** And how shall they believe in Him of whom **they have not heard?** And how shall they hear **without a preacher?** ¹⁵ And how shall they preach **unless they are sent?** As it is written:

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" So then **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**.

James 1 v 21: **receive with meekness the implanted word**, which is able to **save your souls**.

WHAT DO WE FIND IN THE WORD OF GOD: REVELATION OF THE PERSON OF JESUS

Ethiopian Eunuch was reading Isaiah 53 v 7-8.

³⁴ So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and **beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him**.

- Beginning at this scripture...Preach Jesus:
- **READ: Isaiah 53 v 1 – 9**

WHAT DID PHILIP PREACH? THE GOSPEL - HE TOLD THE ETHIOPIAN ABOUT:

JESUS ON THE CROSS

How Jesus was crucified (scourged, crown of thorns, mocked Him, nails in His hands and feet, marred more than any man.)

WHY JESUS WAS ON THE CROSS?

2 Cor 5 v 21: For He (*God*) made Him (*Jesus*) who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- He became sin for us.
- Wrath of God came upon Jesus, because of our sin.

WE ARE ALL SINNERS

Romans 3 v 23:for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God....

WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH

Romans 6 v 23: ...For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

WE WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT

Romans 14 v 12:So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

WHILE WE WERE SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US.

Romans 5 v 8: But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Peter 2 v 21-24:who Himself (*Jesus*) bore our sins in His own body on the tree....

John 3 v 16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

BLOOD OF JESUS

- We have **redemption** through His blood, the **forgiveness of sins**. (Col 1 v 14, Eph 1 v 7)
- Through Jesus we are **reconciled** to Father God, having made **peace** through the blood of His cross. (Col 1 v19)
- The church of God which He **purchased** with His own blood (Acts 20 v 28)
- The blood of Jesus Christ His Son **cleanses us from all sin** (1 John 1 v 7)
- having now been **justified** by His blood (Rom 5 v 9)

IN CHRIST, SALVATION, FREEDOM, HOPE

2 Corinthians 5 v 17: ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a **new creation**; **old things have passed away**; behold, **all things have become new**. ¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has **reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ**

DIED, BURIED, RESURRECTED FOR HIS SIN

1 Corinthians 15 v 1: Moreover, brethren, I declare to you **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² **by which also you are saved**, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that (1) **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and (2) **that He was buried**, and (3) **that He rose again the third day** according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that (4) **He was seen by** Cephas, then by the twelve.....

IF YOU BELIEVE THIS GOSPEL, YOU WILL BE SAVED

Romans 10 v 9:that if you **confess with your mouth** the **Lord Jesus** and **believe in your heart** that **God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.....** ¹³ For “**whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**”

CALL THEM FOR SALVATION !!!

1 Kings 8 v 41 – Solomon’s prayer at the dedication of the Temple: “Moreover, concerning a **foreigner**, who *is* not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for Your name’s sake ⁴² (for they will hear of Your great name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm), **when he comes and prays toward this temple,** ⁴³ **hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You,** that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as *do* Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name.

- when you call on God, He will hear you & save you.

RESPONSE to PREACHING: (1) REVELATION: (2) BELIEVE IN JESUS & (3) BAPTISM

³⁶ Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “**See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?**” ³⁷ Then Philip said, “If you **believe with all your heart, you may.**” And he answered and said, “**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**” ³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

- v37: Not in some translations, included in the footnotes.

(1) REVELATION OF JESUS

Jesus is the Christ, Messiah (the anointed savior) and God’s Son.

Mat 16 v 15 – Jesus asks His disciples: “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

John 6 v 67 – most of Jesus’ disciples leave Him: Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” ⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have the words of eternal life.** ⁶⁹ Also **we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

John 20 v 31: ³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written **that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,** and that **believing you may have life in His name.**

(2) BELIEVE IN JESUS & HIS FINISHED WORK ON THE CROSS

John 6 v 47: Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me has everlasting life.**

John 1 v 12: But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to **become children of God,** to those who believe in His name....

John 3 v 36: He who **believes in the Son has everlasting life....**

Acts 16 v31: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved....”

(3) BAPTISED

Romans 6 v 3-11: Or do you not know that as many of us as were **baptized into Christ Jesus** were **baptized into His death**? ⁴Therefore we were **buried with Him** through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life**. ⁵For if we have been **united together** in the likeness of **His death**, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of **His resurrection**, ⁶knowing this, that our **old man was crucified with Him**, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should **no longer be slaves of sin**. ⁷For he who has died has been **freed from sin**. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also **live with Him.....**

- Baptism: public declaration of my decision to follow Christ.
- Believers’ baptism!
- We are united with Jesus in His death and resurrection.
- Our old man and sinful nature die in the water.
- We become alive to God when we exit the water.

Mark 16 v 15 – the Great Commission: And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶**He who believes and is baptized will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

- Believing = salvation
- Baptism is the sign thereof.

REJOICE

³⁹Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and **he went on his way rejoicing**. ⁴⁰But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

Romans 5 v 2: Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and **rejoice** in hope of the glory of God.

Mat 13 v 44: “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for **joy over it** he goes and **sells all that he has and buys that field**.”

GOD’S PROMISE

Isaiah 56 v 1-8: Thus says the Lord: “Keep justice, and do righteousness **For My salvation is about to come, And My righteousness to be revealed**. ²Blessed *is* the man *who* does this, And the son of man *who* lays hold on it; Who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And keeps his hand from doing any evil.” ³Do not let the son of the **foreigner Who has joined himself to the Lord Speak**, saying, “The Lord has utterly separated me from His people”; Nor let the **eunuch** say, “Here I am, a dry tree.”

⁴For thus says the Lord: **“To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant,** ⁵ Even to them **I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off.**

⁶“Also the sons of the **foreigner** Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants— Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant— ⁷Even them **I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful** in My house of prayer. Their burnt **offerings and their sacrifices *Will be accepted*** on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

NOTE: Through this Ethiopian Eunuch the Gospel was taken to Africa. Evangelist Daniel King regularly does crusades in Ethiopia, and find many people who claim to be descendant from this Ethiopian’s family.

RESPOND

- SALVATION – PUT YOUR FAITH IN JESUS
- RETURN TO JESUS
- BAPTISM
- COMMIT TO SREARCH THE SCRIPTURES

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