

Acts: The Church on Earth

Acts 8:26-40 “Arise and Go”

Intro

- Acts, the church on earth.
- **Acts - praxeis** - acts of great men, but really the Acts of the Holy Spirit through people he has made great.
- **Simple people, real people, effective for the Kingdom because of God’s presence.**

This Time

- An angel
- Philip
- Ethiopian Eunuch

Have you ever heard or felt or been taken by the calling of God somewhere?

Did you know what it was for?

Did you know who it was for?

Did you ask for it to be big? Or did you care if it was only “small?”

Where are you right now?

- Town, city
- work, home, play
- past, present, future
- upbringing, culture

What’s your five year plan?

- God may have something totally unexpected
- Completely different
- Insanely unimaginable

Right around the corner.

[pray]

:26-28

“Arise and Go”

an angel told him this!

reminds me of other times in the old testament

- John the baptist's birth,
- Mary,
- Gideon,
- Daniel,
- etc.

an angel may show up one day to deliver a message to you

(but it had better be the gospel and not doctrine of demons! Don't listen to angel named moron)

Philip, the type of guy to:

1. **Be ready to hear** (be quick to hear, let your words be few, etc)
2. Hears things from angels
3. Doesn't think it strange
4. Goes right away

arise - *anistēmi* (reminds me of anesthesia)

- **to cause to rise up, raise up**
- **raise up from laying down**
- **to raise up from the dead**
- to raise up, cause to be born, to cause to appear, bring forward
- to rise, stand up
- of persons lying down, of persons lying on the ground
- of persons seated
- **of those who leave a place to go elsewhere**
- **of those who prepare themselves for a journey**
- of the dead
- at arise, appear, stand forth
- **of kings prophets, priests, leaders of insurgents (think eras, kingdoms, history)**
- **of those about to enter into conversation or dispute with anyone, or to undertake some business, or attempt something against others**
- to rise up against any one

go - *poreuō*

- to lead over, carry over, transfer
- **to pursue the journey on which one has entered, to continue on one's journey**
- **to depart from life** (actual life, but think of God's call on Abram, on anyone in general, leave your life behind)
- to follow one, that is: become his adherent
- **to lead or order one's life** (what better order to have in life than to always be ready to go)

Isaiah 1:18 (interesting as we've seen that this Ethiopian eunuch has read this verse)
"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Great connotations here.

- Maybe Philip wasn't doing anything? Or maybe he was.
- Maybe he didn't know the next step and was seeking God for where to go, what to do? Or maybe God interrupted his weekend.
- Church is being persecuted, scattered, the apostles are hanging around.

**If you're questioning where to go, what to do...that's good. Expect an answer.
 If you're set in your plans and have things "figured out", expect an interruption.**

troubles in NY, praying about what to do, cliff edge, not going on emotion, waiting for a word and direction

Currently moving...with a baby coming

It was active, a way to stand up and prepare for a journey

moving (we always keep our boxes now...12x since being saved?)

this was an important journey

along the road...specific directions

gps again - i like specific instructions, what's next, what exit # exactly...just ask my wife lol

But that's the specifics. Go south.

Jerusalem to Gaza

Gaza in Easton's Bible Dictionary called also Azzah, which is its Hebrew name (Deut. 2:23; 1 Kings 4:24; Jer. 25:20), strong, a city on the Mediterranean shore, remarkable for its early importance as the chief centre of a great commercial traffic with Egypt. It is one of the oldest cities of the

world (Gen. 10:19; Josh. 15:47). Its earliest inhabitants were the Avims, who were conquered and displaced by the Caphtorims (Deut. 2:23; Josh. 13:2, 3), a Philistine tribe. In the division of the land it fell to the lot of Judah (Josh. 15:47; Judg. 1:18). It was the southernmost of the five great Philistine cities which gave each a golden emerod as a trespass-offering unto the Lord (1 Sam. 6:17). Its gates were carried away by Samson (Judg. 16:1-3). Here he was afterwards a prisoner, and "did grind in the prison house." Here he also pulled down the temple of Dagon, and slew "all the lords of the Philistines," himself also perishing in the ruin (Judg. 16:21-30). The prophets denounce the judgments of God against it (Jer. 25:20; 47:5; Amos 1:6, 7; Zeph. 2:4). It is referred to in Acts 8:26. Philip is here told to take the road from Jerusalem to Gaza (about 6 miles south-west of Jerusalem), "which is desert", i.e., the "desert road," probably by Hebron, through the desert hills of Southern Judea. (See SAMSON T0003208.) It is noticed on monuments as early as B.C. 1600. Its small port is now called el-Mineh.

(another dictionary) it is the most southwesterly town toward Egypt, and lay on the great route between Syria and that country, being in position and strength (as its name means) **the key of the line of communication**. It withstood Alexander's siege with all his resources for five months.

This is desert (deserted place)

an empty road. a lonely road.

**away from the hussle and bussle and no one to ask for directions,
let alone insight on the hebrew scriptures.**

So he (Philip) arose and went...

simple instructions, simple obedience

We see some of the greatest works of God done through simple obedience to him

That's what makes a man great: his obedience to God.

Billy Graham, Dr. Stanley, Chuck Smith and others we can probably attest to, even in our own lives

(1st Samuel 15:22...to obey is better than sacrifice)

Ethiopia, africa

eunuch - bed guard, guarded the women for the royalty. probably castrated.

this guy oversaw the treasury. jet setter on a business trip for international trade.

For whom?

Candace of Ethiopians

Kandake or Kentake was the title for queens regnant of the **ancient Kingdom of Kush in the Nile Valley**. It is a derivative of Candace, a Meroitic language term for **"queen" or "queen-mother"**.

The queen concerned may have been Amanitore.

Amanitore was among the last great Kush builders. She was involved in restoring the large temple for **Amun** at Meroë and the Amun temple at Napata after it was demolished by the Romans. Reservoirs for the retention of water also were constructed at Meroë during her reign.

The quantity of building that was completed during the middle part of the first century indicates that this was the most prosperous time in Meroitic history

Amanitore has been well regarded by historians and has been included as **number thirty-nine** on a list of *The Fifty Greatest Africans*

Pliny indicates that the Ethiopians had conquered ancient **Syria** and the **Mediterranean**.

What potential here. What a person for God to be reaching out to.

What an open door to reach an entire people group, an entire continent through its major civilization at the time

By just going south and talking to one guy on the highway

had come to worship in jerusalem.

he was on his trip, but wanted to go to jewish temple while he was there.

he was seeking God. This man knew the God of the Bible was real and couldn't pass up an opportunity to worship Him, even if he didn't totally understand the message

reading isaiah

- mini bible
- 66 chapters / 66 books
- 39 - filled with judgment on sin of Judah
- 27 - message of hope
- ministry covers 40 years, 4 kings of Judah
- "Yahwah is salvation" ... Isaiah

the PROPHET

a lot of scriptures predicting about the coming messiah

Is 7:14

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Is 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Is 61:1

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD [is] upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to [those who are] bound;

Is 53:5

But He [was] wounded for our transgressions, [He was] bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace [was] upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

to name a few...

29-35

the Spirit said to Philip

had to go to hear

the intimacy of the Spirit...are we listening and obeying? Are we sensitive to his leading? He's gentle. He may whisper.

Go near and overtake the chariot

airport story (maybe)

heard him reading...out loud. All of the crew, at least close to him, would have heard

**What does he say? A message? He just simply asks
“Do you understand what you are reading?”**

Do you know the depth of what is being said here?
Do you get the connotation? The application? **(Jesus)**

v31 “How can I unless someone guides me?”

I know a lot of people who feel this way about the scriptures, and I do too sometimes

How could we understand something without being taught? Not everyone gets it, and that's OK.

I forget that sometimes that not everyone has really heard what the Bible is actually saying to them about God.

Do you think that whether he actually prayed or not, God heard and saw his desire for the answers, perhaps his frustration even...and God answered. God sent. Not an angel, but Philip. Not a messenger of heaven, but an ambassador, an emissary of Christ.

Philip drew near. He gets up on the chariot when this guy invites him.

**Sometimes we keep the people in the world at arms length...
sometimes we have to**

**But more than often, God wants us to draw near to them,
not to meet our needs...but theirs**

“friendship evangelism”

Isaiah 53...

Isaiah or Jesus?

Makes sense, Isaiah's name means Yahweh (God) is Salvation

a lot of people will proclaim their own goodness with veiled comments, good and bad

“real men love Jesus”

Real prophets speak of Jesus

That’s the end of prophecy...Jesus *is* the real prophet, the one who speaks to us the things of God. the very word of God itself is prophecy. In text and in flesh and in spirit.

v35 is a key

Then philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this scripture, preached Jesus to him.

Philip picked up right where this guy was spiritually, and led him to Jesus.

- no need to go back to genesis
- no need to convict the guy of his sin

but bring him to Jesus right from where they are, quickly, directly, accurately - but most of all, simply.

sometimes we miss the boat with sharing Jesus when we try to go another route
when we try to educate someone
correct someone

instead of just taking them by the hand, right from where they’re caught, or stumbled, or confused, or hurt, and just bring them right to the throne of grace

*a dad talking about manipulating people to his son at dunkin
we don’t need to manipulate. we just need to loving lead them through what they’re in to the love of Jesus.*

We can’t save anyone. We can’t force anyone. We can’t make anyone.

36-39

**they came to some water
remember...they’re in a desert, a deserted place
dusty dry and has got to be hot**

California this past year?

So practical. So applicable. So simple.

The Eunuch has been reading and seeking. God brings Philip to lead to Jesus, and right away, the Eunuch has such child-like faith, you've talked of Jesus, repentance and baptism, let's go? Any reason why not?

baptisms in NY...people just going for it on the spot. pools, homes, hotels, gyms

The situation doesn't make something special, it's the heart behind it.

Do you want to get baptized? Is there water right here? I'll put the tub on and dunk you!

Why not? I mean, really...

That's exactly this Ethiopian...what a love for God.

He has had his body altered, probably forcibly as a kid, he cannot be intimate with anyone, he is rich, powerful, travels...but knows that God is real. He is in a position of honor, but is so sold out, so in love with Jesus, hey, here's a pond in the desert, why not? can we? can we please?

we need to be the same way. what kind of love do we have for God if we won't get up and go and if we won't get out of our luxury cars and get wet for Jesus.

Child like faith.

Matthew 18:3-4

and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

"Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Will we just go?

What hinders me?

what should stop me now? Do I not understand the scriptures?

Is there some sin? Is it my lifestyle? what?

What is the only thing that can hinder in us? Unbelief.

It's that simple. "I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God."

BOOM. Saved.

Did you mean it? Get wet!

Baptism doesn't save. But it does take faith.

(James)

Seriously, getting dunked? Practically? Pool gets dirty.

This was a public witness, even in the wilderness. Those who were in his entourage all saw. All heard the gospel. All heard Philip's explanation.

The guy who was in charge just got saved.

How would your job change if your boss got radically saved?

(Radically = really)

When they came up out of the water...

they just get out of the pool gang, and Philip disappears. Rapture style.

WHAT A DAY FOR THIS GUY

What a week! What a trip!

Wouldn't you or I flip?

reading the Bible, famous Bible teacher shows up, leads you to salvation, baptises you, disappears!

What was in that water??

He went on his way rejoicing.

reminds me of the lepers, those healed physically, the woman at the well and others

What a beautiful picture.

Singing rejoicing. Changed.

I'll bet the trip was night and day from going there to going back.

**What was your trip here like this morning? Will you go away rejoicing?
If we've spent time with God, I guarantee you will be.**

40

But Philip was found at Azotus

OK, he didn't disappear forever like some other guys in the Bible

Ashdod or Azotus = "a stronghold"

one of the five chief cities of the Philistines, lying between Ashkelon and Jamnia and near the Mediterranean

Philip ends up at another one of the strong cities of the region.

That was only the first leg of the trip!

Jerusalem south, transported west to the Mediterranean Coast and went all the way up the coast preaching

These cities, one used to have the temple of Dagon, are being reached by God, yet again Jonah!

What a journey.

- Where did Philip think he was going? He had no clue.
- An angel tells him to get up and go down.
- The spirit tells him to draw near
- Ethiopian saved
- Spirit takes Philip to the coast and now he has to walk the rest of the way...to be able to share with the people there

The Ethiopian returns to East Africa and the gospel goes with him.

**Sometimes we're looking for a miracle to get us there,
but sometimes we just need to arise and go.**

Matthew 24:14

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

The gospel has gone out. Have we? The end is coming. We get to be a part.