Africa’s First Christian November 8, 2020

*Acts 8:26-40 Series: Is God Racist?*

Christianity helped Africans to become renewed Africans, not remade Europeans. – Lamin Sanneh

Intro: Does Christian mission need to be rethought?

**How God Can Use You to Bless a World That Feels Cursed**

1. Follow God to uncomfortable places.
2. Philip was in the middle of a once-in-a-lifetime revival.

vv. 5-6 *Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip …*

1. God can use us in the demotions as well as the promotions.

v. 26 *Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.*

v. 26 *This is a desert place.*

v. 27 *And he rose and went.*

* Why do so many Christians believe that it’s wrong to share one’s faith with someone of a different religion?
* How would you have felt if you were sent into the desert?
* What are some of the uncomfortable situations that God might send us into today?
1. Notice the people who are left behind.
2. The Ethiopian had given everything for his career.

v. 27 *And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure.*

1. Imagine the disappointment of exclusion after such a long trip.

vv. 27-28 *He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning …*

Deuteronomy 23:1 *No one whose testicles are crushed or whose male organ is cut off shall enter the assembly …*

v. 28 *in his chariot … he was reading the prophet Isaiah*

* What would motivate someone to become a eunuch?
* Why would the Ethiopian travel 50-60 days one-way to be a part of the worship in Jerusalem?
* How do you think he was feeling on the way back home?
* Does Philip teach you anything about how to relate to people who identify as transgender today?
1. Have the courage to speak for God.
2. God pushes us over the walls that keep us from witnessing.

v. 29 *And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.”*

v. 30 *So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah …*

1. Sometimes just opening our mouths is enough.

v. 30 *Do you understand what you are reading?*

* What are some of the obstacles that might have kept Philip from witnessing to the Ethiopian?
* What do you learn from Philip’s evangelistic approach?
* What are some of the things that keep you from following God into uncomfortable situations to share your faith?
1. Prepare for the opportunities God gives.
2. Could you answer the Ethiopian’s question?

v. 31 *How can I, unless someone guides me?*

v. 32 *Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter …”*

v. 34 *And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”*

1. Love means that we don’t just read the Bible for ourselves.

v. 35 *Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.*

* What are the most basic things that we should know in order to share our faith?
* What are some of the most basic verses or passages that we could use to explain the gospel?
* Should we avoid evangelism until we know enough to answer people’s questions?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Colossians 3:5-11.

Notes