



Mustard Sermon Discussion Questions - July 11, 2021

Scripture Passages:

Acts 8:26-40 ²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Warm Up:

This week Pastor Dennis Jackson dove into cross cultural mission work! What other countries/cultures are you interested in? What do you already know about that country/culture?

Discussion:

1) In the beginning of his message, Pastor Dennis talked about things distracting us from listening.

What are some of the distractions you see most in our culture? What are some things that are most distracting for you?

2) Read Acts 8:26-40.

What characteristics can be identified of the Ethiopian?

3) What do we know about Philip's background (see Acts 6:1-7, 8:1-25, 21:8)?

4) In his message, Pastor Dennis identified several obstacles that Philip had to overcome. Re-list these and share which ones often hinder you in being on mission?

5) Looking back at the passage in Acts 8, what does this passage say about the unique role of the Holy Spirit?

6) What does this passage say about humanity? Share which verses led you to these insights.

7) In his message, Pastor Dennis discussed differences in cultures when we cross barriers. Which cultural differences might make you most uncomfortable? Why? How might experiencing God at work in other cultures change your understanding of God?

8) Considering the story of Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch, what lesson(s) do I need to apply in my life from this story?

Next Steps:

At the end of his message, Pastor Dennis asked a few questions:

Am I listening for the Holy Spirit?

Am I willing to cross barriers?

Am I asking great questions?

Do I share the Word?

Do I anticipate a point of decision?

Take some time to think through these questions this week. Ask yourself why or why not.

Who is someone I should share this story with in the coming week?