



Leaving the Ninety-Nine....

October 4, 2026

Acts 8:26-40

Introduction:

God really does go after the ONE.

Leaving the Ninety Nine - Acts 8:26-30

26Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. 27And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." 30So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Philip Leaves Samaria

- Philip's ministry is flourishing in Samaria, yet God tells him "Go"
- On the road to Egypt, Gaza is the last place you count on finding water.
- Philip didn't know what he was going *for*, only that he was supposed to Go

The Ethiopian Eunuch

- Was likely castrated as a young boy
- He was in Jerusalem worshiping, yet he probably didn't receive the warmest welcome (Deuteronomy 23:1)

Philip Catches Up to Him

- When Philip got near, the Spirit said "Go over and join this chariot".
- Philip again doesn't know what he's to do beyond just the next step!
- We often want to know the end before we begin, but this isn't typically how God works....

The Spirit and Scripture

- The Holy Spirit is using scripture to draw the man to God.
- In our limitations and tendency to choose sides, we are reminded here that the Spirit and the scriptures are not opposed to each other
- The Eunuch is reading Isaiah 53



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Sharing the Good News - Acts 8:34-40

34And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” **35**Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. **36**And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” **38**And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. **39**And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. **40**But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Eunuch and the Suffering of Jesus

- The Eunuch is reading about the suffering of the Messiah and feels a deep connections with his own suffering.
- When He understood Jesus’s sufferings, he realized Jesus understood *his* sufferings!
- Even more so, in Isaiah 56, God promised to give the Eunuch, who chooses God and remains faithful to him, an *everlasting name*. (Read Isaiah 56:3-5)

Philip Shares the Good News/Baptism

- The Spirit gave Philip the words to share the good news with the eunuch and is able to connects all the dots for him.
- They *just so happen* to be near a watering hole on a desert road!
- God has left the ninety-nine to go after the ONE.
- Philip is carried away, but continues to proclaim the gospel in other area.

What’s In This For Us?

- Remember, walking by faith means that we won’t typically know the end from the beginning but the prophet Isaiah tells us that God does!
- Remember, God cares for the ONE, and is already moving towards them, and he often invites us into the process of helping them connect the dots!
- Remember, Jesus understands our suffering. When we understand his suffering, our eyes are opened to realize that He understands our suffering.

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