




THE CROSS CHANGES YOU DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ACTS 8:26-40

1 Consider the characters...

 *Eunuch—A wealthy man (CFO, or minister of finance), in charge of all the treasure of the Queen of Ethiopia, Candace. He had come some 2,039 miles to worship at Jerusalem and was turned away (Deut. 23:1) because he was a eunuch. He bought a very expensive scroll of Isaiah, probably there in Jerusalem, and was reading it when God sent Philip to share Jesus with him.*

 *Philip—A deacon in the church at Jerusalem, an evangelist who preached Jesus wherever he went, and in this instance, where he was sent. He was well-versed in the O.T. Scriptures. He was passionate about the gospel.*

 *After listening to the sermon, what misconceptions about the characters have you had? What about each character speaks to you and in what particular way?*

2 “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus.” (Acts 8:35) What are your first thoughts about this verse?

 *How you would share the good news of Jesus beginning with the Old Testament?*


3 There are parallels in Acts 8:26-40 to Luke 24:13-35. What are the similarities? Why are they significant? How important is it for you to understand that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament?

 *How vital is your study of the Old Testament as a Christian today? What part does the Old Testament have in your life?*

 *What part does the Spirit of God play in opening your eyes to the Scripture? What part does Spirit-filled, Word-bound preaching have in your life today?*

4 God promised to take His Word to the ends of the earth (Micah 5:4). Do you realize the first Gentile convert recorded (as a mission of the newly-established church) was literally from the ends of the earth? Homer wrote of Ethiopia as being “the end of the earth.” Do you trust God to spread His Word, even today, to the ends of the earth?

 *What part do you have in spreading the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth? In what ways can you play more of a part in this mission?*

 *How does the divine-appointment factor in this story encourage you to share the gospel?*

5 Considering how important temple worship was to Judaism, do you find it ironic that the first Gentile convert after the establishment of the church was not allowed in the Jerusalem temple?

📖 Read Acts 17:24-27. Paul used the concept of Creator God refusing to dwell in temples made by human hands, as though he were dependent upon those temples to house Him. What is clear from Acts 8 and Acts 17 about temple worship after Christ's resurrection? Where is God found today? What is God's revelation to man today?

♥ Are you experiencing the fulness of God's revelation (Jesus Christ) through the Word of God, by the Spirit of God, in the world of God, through the church of God today?

6 There is no "Keep-Out" sign on the Word of God or at Biblical churches today. What can we do to invite unbelievers into studying God's revelation of Christ in our homes? in our church?

🔊 What are poor practices that repel unnecessarily or confuse unbelievers from hearing clearly the good news of Jesus?

7 The order of what happened in the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch is very important. What happened first, next, and last?

⚙️ What must a person know in order to be saved? _____ What must a person believe in order to be baptized? _____

⚙️ What is the normal thing for a new convert to Christ to do? _____ Why is believer's baptism important? What is different about believer's baptism as opposed to other types of baptism that you know about?

8 When you share the good news of Jesus, are you filled with faith in the power of God's Word in the life of the hearers? Parents, do you believe that the Word will convert your child when you read to them the Bible? Do you believe that the Word can save your co-worker? Do you believe that just sharing God's Word can turn a heart of stone into a heart of flesh? Do you believe that God has divine appointments for you to share Christ or to invite a soul to hear His message at your church? How does the obedient, faith-filled example of Philip inspire and encourage you?

9 Holy Week—Take time with family and friends to walk through the last week of our Lord before His resurrection. Perhaps travel with John Piper through this week through the book, Love to the Uttermost. <http://www.desiringgod.org/books/love-to-the-uttermost>. Maybe it's time for reading the Jesus Storybook Bible with your kids. Another Desiring God resource is this list of articles according to days: <http://www.desiringgod.org/series/holy-week-2015>. Please, come worship our Lord on Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday 2017!

PRAYER REQUESTS
