

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Beyond Your Times Of Drought

Acts 8:26-40

Sunday, April 3, 2016

You gave up everything - all your personal dreams - for the sake of something you figured was higher, greater and better. Even though you achieved everything you set out to do, You came to the realization that when it was all said and done, you had gained nothing of lasting value. What do you do next?

This was the wrenching plight of the Ethiopian eunuch. Without protest, he had submitted to having a body part removed, believing that this sacrifice would bring ultimate fulfillment.

- He was a powerful man
- He was an unfulfilled man
- He became a disappointed man
- He became a powerfully fulfilled man

HE WAS A POWERFUL MAN

Acts 8:26-27a

²⁶As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia.

HE WAS AN UNFULFILLED MAN

Acts 8:27b-28

The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, **28** and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

He had travelled hundreds of miles for the answer to his heart's deepest cries, but had come up empty.

HE BECAME A REJECTED MAN

The Old Testament ceremonial law did not allow any eunuch to enter the presence of God. **Deuteronomy 23:1** notes, "No one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the Lord." NIV

Evidently, he had attempted to connect with the people of God during the great holy day and had been turned away.

One can only imagine how deformed, unclean, and forsaken he must of felt on the way home. Then he happened to be reading the Bible scroll and came upon **Isaiah 53**.

What had arrested his interest was an account of someone whose life had paralleled his own in a number of ways.

Acts 8:32-33

The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this: ³²**“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. ³³He was humiliated and received no justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”**

HE BECAME A POWERFULLY FULFILLED MAN

After all his grueling effort of travel and attempted connection with God's people, he was certainly disappointed. But in his Bible search, had he gotten to **Isaiah 56**, his disappointment would have quickly changed to elation.

Isaiah 56:3-5

Let no foreigner who is bound to the Lord say, ‘The Lord will surely exclude me from his people.’ And let no eunuch complain, ‘I am only a dry tree.’ For this is what the Lord says: ‘To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant – to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure for ever.

Acts 8:29-31

²⁹The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.” ³⁰Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

The man was reading aloud, suggesting that he was applying great effort in trying to understand what the Scriptures were saying.

Acts 8:34-40

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?” ³⁵So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus. ³⁶As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?” ³⁷And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”³⁸He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

THE REWARD FOR GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY

The way this is written suggests that something unusual or miraculous took place.

³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.

When you lift another's burdens, the Lord will (sometimes miraculously) lift yours!