

Acts: The Spirit, the Church and the Spread of God's Word

The First Missionary Moment

Acts 8:4-6, 26-40

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, August 11, 2019

I. God Has Never Been Locked into Efficiency the Way We Are

Acts 8:6 “And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Phillip...”

Acts 8:8 “And there was great joy in that city.”

Philip is in the middle of a city-wide revival and the Spirit of God directs him away from it.

The reason for the exponential growth of the church is not mass evangelism or city-wide revival, but one person talking to another person about Jesus.

II. God Wants to Work Through You without Having to Confide in You All that He's Doing

Acts 8:26 “ Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, ‘Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ This is desert.”

Philip goes without knowing the details of what God will have him do. The Holy Spirit guides him one step at a time.

We can see how Philip obeyed without getting all the details from God in advance:

v. 27 “So he arose and went...”

v. 30 “So Philip ran to him...”

Cultivate simple obedience; God speaks most to those who argue least and God uses most, those who obey quickest.

III. God Wants to Use You to Reach Some People Not Like You at All

God has always delighted in using unlikely people to reach unlikely candidates for the Gospel.

From the very beginning, the Spirit's been pushing us to cross racial, cultural, and sexual barriers.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

No other religion has crossed cultural barriers and spread across continents like Christianity... because the message of Jesus Christ and the Gospel is like no other!

IV. God Knows You Have No Power to Change Anyone – So He Wants You to Talk about Someone Who Does

A. Talk to People about Jesus

Acts 8:35 “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.”

Don't allow issues of today's hot topics to hijack your conversations and derail you from talking about the most important thing. We don't have to solve people's issues to share the Gospel and talk about Jesus!

Remember that the Gospel cannot be shared without words.

B. Use the Bible as Much as Possible

Acts 8:35 “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.”

Our words have no power, but God's Word has amazing power to break through and change lives!

Acts 8:39 “... and he went on his way rejoicing.”

Acts 8:8 “And there was great joy in that city.”

Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”