

Kinds of People that Jesus Saves, Part 2: The Outsider

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Acts 8:25-40

This passage proves two things promised by the Lord: 1) That the apostles and disciples of Christ would be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth, Acts 1:8. 2) It provides a great assurance of salvation for those God has chosen.

Three Aspects of this Passage:

1. **Outsider of Outsiders:** V26, Philip is sent to the southern desert road from Jerusalem that went to Gaza. On Philip's journey he finds that an Ethiopian eunuch is taking the same road, V27. How outside is this outsider?

1) **Outside Geographically:** He is from a faraway country, one-way is 1500-2000 miles from Jerusalem.

2) **Outside Ethnically:** He is not a Jew, not a proselyte, not from Israel.

3) **Outside Physically:** He can't be a Jew physically, because he is a eunuch. He can't become a Jew or be a part of Jewish custom and practice. He would have been forbidden to ever be in the service of worship as a priest, Lev. 21:20, or those emasculated, Deut. 23:1.

>The eunuch makes a very dangerous and expensive trip to worship in Jerusalem, V27. He owns a scroll of Isaiah and is reading it, V28. He likely would have read/heard in Isaiah:

- Is. 18:1-7, speaks of a people who will bring gifts to Mount Zion, from Ethiopia.
- Is. 11:11, speaks of a remnant of God's people in Cush (Ethiopia).
- Is. 49:22-23, the nations will return the young ones of Israel back to Israel.
- Is. 56:1-8, eunuchs will be given a place and name in God's house.

2. **An Open Bible:** Keep searching and seeking the Lord. The eunuch didn't understand but desired to know the One and Only True God, Acts 8:31. Searching for truth in Scripture is evidence of the electing work of God.

>The work of God will create humility in the heart of a sinner, V31.

>Philip reads to the eunuch from Is. 53. V7, the lamb is Jesus. V11, Jesus is righteous and holy. V6, Jesus is our substitute. V12, Jesus bore the sin of many. V4, 10, Jesus bore the wrath of God on our behalf and extended mercy through Christ's offering. V5, our peace with God was paid by Christ's suffering for us. Philip began at Isaiah 53:7 and preached Christ, V35.

3. **Obedient Response and Understanding Faith:** V36, the eunuch desired to obey the Lord just as Peter preached in Acts 2:38, to repent of sin and be baptized. The eunuch knew there was a God he could not approach without a sacrifice, having come back from temple worship in Jerusalem, but the eunuch would not have been allowed to approach or offer due to his current state.

- **The eunuch demonstrated submitting faith:** V38, he confessed sin and was baptized in water in front of all those who traveled with him.
- **The eunuch demonstrated joyful faith:** V39, Philip was caught up and the eunuch went his way rejoicing.

1) **There is a great separation between a Holy God and unrighteous man. I don't belong in the presence of a Holy God, there is a wall of separation.**

2) **There is forgiveness of sin through Christ. We have been brought near by the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:13).** Psalm 103:12, God has removed our transgressions far from us and made righteous. Christ has broken down that wall.

Further Discussion and Application

How would you answer these questions Biblically:

- Why do I have to believe in Jesus?
- Why is there a hell?
- What must I do to be saved?
- What does it mean that God is holy and I am sinner?

Go verse by verse and explain Isaiah 53:1-12 as to an unbeliever. Taking a look at Romans how might you present the Gospel using the following Scriptures:

- Romans 1:16-17:
- Romans 2:4:
- Romans 3:23:
- Romans 5:1-5:
- Romans 6:23:
- Romans 8:1:
- Romans 8:28:
- Romans 10:9-10:

If they continued on with you, how would you describe the Christian life to them? How would they know what to do next? Taking a look at Romans 12, what would you tell them to do next?

What is the purpose of gathering together as the body of Christ? How would you encourage a new believer to join the gathering of the saints on the Lord's Day? Taking a look at Hebrews 10:19-25, why can we assemble together and what is the purpose of gathering as the church?

How would you explain the doctrine of election to them? How would you present to them a God who has chosen them to receive salvation and bear fruits of righteousness? Taking a look at Eph. 1:3-14 and Galatians 4:1-7 & 5:16-26, how would you encourage them to bear fruit and have assurance of salvation?