





No More Outcasts!

Acts 8:26-40, Isaiah 53



PEOPLE WHO

SEE JESUS

DO WHAT JESUS SAYS

SING TO JESUS

SHARE JESUS

Acts 8:26-40

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”).

This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

Acts 8:26-40

29 The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

31 “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?”

So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

32 This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

Acts 8:26-40

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

Acts 8:26-40

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” 35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Luke 24:44-48

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

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Acts 8:26-40

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" [37] 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

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Acts 8:26-40

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. 40 Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

“To this day, a large portion of the Church in Ethiopia claims that this man was its original founder. Acts 8 tells his story. This eunuch was reading through Isaiah when Philip encounters him. According to Church tradition, this eunuch then took his newfound belief back to his people and to the queen of the Ethiopians. Because of this, it seems quite likely that Ethiopia has the oldest Christian faith in Africa.”

The logo for The Gospel Coalition (TGC) Africa, featuring the letters 'TGC' followed by a vertical line and a white silhouette of the African continent on a green square background.

[~https://africa.thegospelcoalition.org/article/fathers-of-the-reformation-africans-in-the-early-church/](https://africa.thegospelcoalition.org/article/fathers-of-the-reformation-africans-in-the-early-church/)

What is the significance of this eunuch story?

Isaiah 56:3-5

3 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.”

4 For this is what the Lord says:

Isaiah 56:3-5

5 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 forever.

How can outcasts come home?



“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”

-Luke 15:20

Matthew 11:28

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Isaiah 53:10-11

Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

11 After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

But what if...

“We cannot present a reason for Christ to finally close off his heart to his own sheep. No such reason exists. Every human friend has a limit. If we offend enough, if a relationship gets damaged enough, if we betray enough times, we are cast out. The walls go up. With Christ, our sins and weaknesses are the very resumé items that qualify us to approach him. Nothing but coming to him is required – first at conversion and a thousand times thereafter until we are with him upon death.”

~Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners
and Sufferers, Crossway, Downers Grove, IL, p. 64

Gospel Response

No More Outcasts, OK?!

See, Sing, Share

Communion: Four Ways to Respond to God



Pray



Remember



Sing



Give