



Approaching God

Read Psalm 15 and begin with an opening prayer

LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others; who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the LORD; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

"Father, I long to have this kind of integrity in my life, but most of the time I'm not even close. Thank you that Jesus lived a life of perfect integrity on my behalf, that he always spoke with truth and love from the heart, and that he died the death that I deserve, so that I could be brought into your sacred tent. Sanctify me, Holy Spirit, and work Christlikeness deep within me. Amen."

Acts 8:26-40

Passage Introduction:

As Philip traveled, the Holy Spirit instructed him to meet an Ethiopian eunuch returning home from Jerusalem (Acts 8:27, 29). Romans considered Ethiopia to be the edge of the world—an Ethiopian eunuch therefore would not be someone notable or prestigious in Roman eyes. But the values of God's kingdom are not the values of this world, and this eunuch would soon find that God himself had scheduled an appointment for him with the gospel.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.

Use the space in the margin to jot down notes, or themes/ideas that stand out as important.

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. **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:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its

Isaiah 53:7-8



Notes:

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.”

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. **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? ” **38** And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. **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.

Questions for Reflection & Meditation

- What does this passage today show me about God (The Father, Son, or Spirit) for which I can thank or praise him?
- What does this passage tell me about people, myself, my neighbor, or perhaps humanity in general?
- What can you learn about sharing your faith from this passage? Are there any principles that surface about sharing your faith?

Key Takeaway:

What truth do I most need to remember from today’s passage? How would this truth change my life if I took it seriously? Why might God be bringing this truth to your attention today?

Close in Prayer:

Re-read Acts 8:33-34 and use them as a basis for thanking God for the work of Christ in salvation