

ACTS – The Eunuch

Suzy Bates

Acts 8:26-40

January 15, 2023

Reflection & Discussion Questions

Our habits and daily routines can lead us to disengage with belief and expectation

When we do engage, we can sense the bigger story unfolding around us.

*Do you notice specific times you are particularly engaged or checked out?

*When is the last time you remember having child-like wonder or strong belief and expectation about something?

The story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch has the potential to reignite faith and wonder

Read and discuss Acts 8:26-35

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 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.

*What does this passage show us about God? About people?

*Why do you think Luke left so much about the Ethiopian ambiguous?

The Ethiopian eunuch engages, the best he knows how, with belief and expectation, regarding God

Philip responds in contrast to the way the eunuch would have been received at the temple.

Read and discuss Acts 8:36-40

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. 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.

*Do you relate more to Philip or the Ethiopian eunuch in this passage?

*What can we learn from Philip about bringing the Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth?

*Are there times you have wondered if something about you might stand in the way of taking the next step in your spiritual journey?

God is radically loving and accepting and expanding His Kingdom to the fringes of all things

*What is God saying to you about where you might engage in belief and expectation?

*What outsider, fringe, or end-of-the-earth is He impressing on you?

*What is holding you back from learning more or taking a step of faith?