



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

Acts 8:25-40 ESV

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”

³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

[INTRODUCTION]

This past week @Forge the students and I began a discussion on what is the difference between the sin of “Commission” and “Omission” as it pertains to



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

God's moral law. You see, we all start out, as we are taught by the LBCF Chp. 19, that God's Law is written on our hearts:¹

London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689 19.2

The same law that was first **written in the heart of man** continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness after the fall,⁴ and was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai, in ten commandments, and written in two tables, the four first containing our duty towards God, and the other six, our duty to man.⁵

⁴ [Rom. 2:14-15](#)

⁵ [Deut. 10:4](#)

Because it is written on our hearts, when we sin against others, we are **pretty aware of it**. One of my earliest memories was when I was three, I struck my friend Billy in the head with a shovel.

It was my Cain moment, and it stinks, but yes, I remember it because God's Law is written on my heart. You see Billy was digging in my space in the backyard, messing up my work and accomplishment with my tools that I was letting him use! Well, who knows, I probably saw one too many **Bugs Bunny** cartoons and I let him have it right in the head. You should also know I remember being dragged in the house by my mother and beat for it as well, so the lesson of consequences for my sin was taught a real young age.

That all to say that was a sin of **Commission**, I am not to murder my neighbor, violence in my heart on that day was of murderous intent. But Jody you were a kid, yep and I was born depraved full of guile and violence, and Billy got in my way of happiness. You probably had some good **sin lessons** as well by good parents that disciplined you and because of that over time we became, Masters of Behavioral Management: **we know what not to do to get in trouble**. Think of it, think of all the laws written on the books in our nation and every year we don't break them, that is because 99% of them were written by people who know what not to do to others and that is because God's law is written on everyone's heart. But you see that is only 1/2 of it, what about the sin of **Omission?**

¹ <https://www.the1689confession.com/1689/chapter-19>



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

You see that the kicker this morning, once we start talking about not doing the good, we ought to do, when we start digging in a little deeper into God's Word, we all start becoming aware that there is more culpability in our lives. We not only become responsible to stay away from the things we could do, BUT we must **work** at doing the **good I KNOW I CAN DO**, which is also written our my heart.

Let me just give you one example, you and I both know that when you are married you **should not stop pursuing** your spouse, spending time with them, getting to know them, this is a GOOD THING! But yet, because there are no laws on it, and because it is not violent in nature, millions of marriages in our country our destroyed because of the sin of selfishness and neglect, **BECAUSE it is a sin of OMISSION**. Every divorce, when you dig deep into, it is 9 out of 10 times not a solo fault of one spouse, even in cases of adultery. Most of the time both spouses are guilty of the sin of emotional neglect; the adultery is the consequence many times of **spousal emotional abandonment**. Jesus understood this and taught us that even the intent of man's heart was very important to consider, "If you have thought about adultery with someone you are guilty of it" (Mat. 5:28).

As we get into Acts, as a Biblical Historical Narrative, it is teaching us not necessarily a bunch of God's Laws as things "Not to Do", that we all can practice. Rather, there have been already, and will continue to be so, many things we are going to be learning, that are not necessarily written in the ten Commandments or the Covenantal Laws of the Bible, but they are the **ethical principles** that come out of the summation of the Law: "Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind, and Your neighbor as yourself".

Once we uncover them then the Spirit begins to make us aware of sins of omission, or the **good we are neglecting to do for God or others**. I say all of this to remind you, as Acts can charge you up to live for God, it will also make you aware your **responsibilities** to **share the good news** with others, and every week you will walk away with in your heart, "How am I doing with that?"



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

In today's lesson there are so many good things that it is hard to pick out a main point and even then, I don't always like giving them because the tendency of people is to say, "Here's the **one thing** I have to be careful to do or not to do!" But if I have to give a summary statement of what you will learn today, I would, say this:

[MAIN POINT]

**Spirit empowered obedience rewards the lost with the Truth,
and the Believer with Purpose.**

You will see this played out in Philip's life as he moves on from Samaria, where he had gathered a lot of public attention, and he moves on to the desert in the middle of nowhere! The text is set up in three sections: 1st the sending vs. 26-28, 2nd the preaching vs. 29-35, and 3rd the obeying vs. 36-40. In each section you are going to see the HS empowerment for each movement, and through that you will begin to see a few things that we should be doing as believers who are responsible to preach and preach Jesus boldly, so as not to **OMIT** to do the good we can!

1. The **Sending** by the Spirit.

Philip, as you recall has not been on the speaking circuit for long but the time, but even though he lacks experience he has had tremendous success. He landed in Samaria, a town of half-breed Jews north of Jerusalem after the dispersion and the attack of Saul of Tarsus against the Church. We are beginning to see in Acts that this was not coincidence but that it was the driving of the HS to this region where the people of Samaria have been prepared for his preaching of the Gospel. Because of the heart of the people of the Samaria desperately wanting to be included in the lineage of their Jewish cousins, because of their desire to be rescued by a Messiah, because of their long history of being treated as outcasts, when Philip came with the Gospel, they jumped into the saving arms of Jesus with arms wide open.

We have to keep this in mind as we progress through Acts that there are **no coincidences in the life of the believer, everything is directed and controlled by God's Providence**. That is because He is bringing about the



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023

completion of a plan, to save ALL that HE has called His own before time (Ephesians 1:4). Philip's coming and going is a part of that plan, and for that matter so is ours...

But the work is never done! As long as there is breath in the lungs of the believer, as long as there is a God-fearing church, there is still work to do towards this effort. It's at this point that God calls Philip.

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place.

An angel is sent to Philip, it looks like God didn't want to Philip to mistake the intent of success in Samaria, "*Philip there is more to do, no need to bask in it, no need to try and gain from it, you were created for evangelism so off you go!*" He then sends them on a trip **towards a major desert**, where there really isn't going to be a lot of resources. **Gaza**, as you all know as the Gaza strip today, back then was a trade town that had recently been destroyed and rebuilt. It was initially developed by the Philistines as a trade route town set up to be a last fill up station before leaving civilization on your way to Egypt or as the first fill-up stop on your way to Jerusalem on your way from Africa. It was one of those weird pit stop places on the Turnpike that is located in the middle of the highway to fuel up on long trips.

Philip obeyed with no questions, no asking for signs, no 'are you sures', he just got up and left.

²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in **charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.**

He goes and when he gets to Gaza he finds this Ethiopian, this Eunuch, a court official in the Empire of Ethiopia. At the time of this recording Ethiopia is a major world power, much larger than current day Ethiopia. It is a country that extends from the Nile River valley (near the first cataract in Upper Egypt) eastward to the shores of the Red Sea, southward to about Khartoum (in what



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

is now Sudan), and westward to the Libyan Desert, it was a country with territory 3xs the size of Egypt and richer in resources.

This country is big enough that even though it had a lot of riches the Romans sought not to conquer it considering the distance and effort not worth it. It is also one of the oldest nations around as we see that even Solomon had a visit from them as when the Queen of Sheba visited Jerusalem centuries earlier. As a matter of fact, that was when Ethiopia became a part of redemption history and was tied to the Jewish heritage, but more on that later.

This Eunuch was reported to work for the Queen mother (**Kandake**) herself. Her son would have been the king, of which in Ethiopian culture was too close to divinity to work, as he was considered to be the son of the **SUN**. Therefore, the Queen mother oversaw all the administration, including ambassadorship and trade. This Eunuch, her official, was most likely a physically emasculated man, for he would have to have been, in order to work around the harems as was the ancient world's tradition. He is no ordinary run of the mill palace worker though; he is one of her top officials that would equal to the person that runs the treasury or the federal reserve. In comparison, **he is the Daniel of the NT**, as Daniel would influence the kingdom of Babylon/Persian for God now this Eunuch would influence Ethiopia or the **Nubian Empire for Jesus**.

This Ethiopian had come to worship in Jerusalem, that's a long way from home over 1,000 miles to be exact. You see the Ethiopians had been introduced to God back in Solomon's day, may have even incorporated God worship into their culture, but because they were Gentiles they were excluded. This particular Ethiopian had been in search, coming at high holiday time, to see if he could discover God most likely. But according to the law an Eunuch could not even become an **acolyte**, or a gentile convert to Judaism, because of a **stipulation** in the Torah, found in **Deut. 23:1**. A Eunuch, was considered unholy and unfit to represent Yahweh, because of their deformity, so he couldn't even become a Gentile convert.

He's found by Philip reading the book of Isaiah, he probably purchased that at the temple and would have cost him a large sum of money. The most famous of the OT scrolls with the most ties to the Messiah, that represents the



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

coming hope of all God-worshippers. Did you even know there was a section in there that offers hope for the Eunuch?

Isaiah 56:3-5 ESV

- ³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say,
“The LORD will surely separate me from his people”;
and let not the eunuch say,
“Behold, I am a dry tree.”
- ⁴ For thus says the LORD:
“To the **eunuchs** who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,
- ⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.

[CHALLENGE + APPLICATION]

All of the background information I wanted to give you for a reason, it is so that you might see a little clearer the imperatives in this text:

**1st notice God never takes into consideration of
where you think you should go.**

You may not like where God has led you up to this point in your life, or what He has allowed you to do, but wherever you are at this moment please understand and accept that was all the will of God. You may be the person that considers your life dull or unfulfilled, and like Philip, you perceived you were sent to a desert, a highway in the middle of nowhere. This has you in a perpetual bad mood, but there are **plenty of lost people in a desert!** As I recall there was a whole nation of God’s elect at one point in the desert. You may never know the identity of the person that has divinely been set up for you to speak to but that does not make it any **less profound**. Your liking of where you have been sent has nothing to do with what you should be doing



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

there, a Christian never has time off from living out and sharing their faith. The imperative to give the Gospel is always upon us.

2nd you never know what God has done to the people around you to prepare their hearts for the Gospel.

This Ethiopian on the day his ability to have family, his ability to be included in Judaism, was physically removed from him was a part of his journey to be accepted in the only Kingdom that had worth, Jesus's Kingdom. I have known **mutilated people** whether in **physical form or spirit**, that unless they would have gone through a nasty transition of major loss, they would have never been ready to receive the Lord. You and I never know all the work that has come before us to get someone ready to hear the Gospel and when someone has hit their **lowest point is usually a blessing of God** to prepare them to hear His good news. Even if they are not ready to repent yet, you may be the person to put in their head the conception that there is more to life, and that they need to go seeking God as this man did. Don't let the pain in people's life be wasted when it may be in your power to help them see God. Jesus always used the opportunity of impairment in body and spirit as an opportunity introduce them to the Kingdom of God, and we can do the same.

3rd you will miss the opportunity to see God do wonderful things if you choose to ignore the world around you.

Philip had just left Samaria where God had done incredible things that's for sure, but you and I have just read and studied that, and now you and I know the same thing Philip knows. We are called to proclaim the gospel (1:8, Mat 28), to do so boldly, and **leave the results up to the HS**. Philip's calling is our calling and to neglect that **IS a sin of Omission**.

To be a part of **God's sending in the power of the HS is one of the most incredible and FULFILLING experiences you can have in your life**. Test it out this week, next time you go out to a restaurant ask the server if you can pray for them and see what they do, ask a neighbor over for dinner and see what they will reply, think about inviting someone to church and see what they will say and remember every opportunity is God ordained, trust the HS to use it



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

for His glory! Just in this first section alone you can see our point being proven:

**Spirit empowered obedience rewards the lost with the Truth,
and the Believer with Purpose.**

Now let's pay attention to the next step in Gospel Proclamation.

2. The **Preaching** enabled by the Spirit.

²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Alright, so simple evangelistic procedure 101, "**I see that you are reading**"... That's how I landed Heather, on our first official date when I spilled hot coffee on her, that's my way of breaking the ice, when I took her home to change there was a Cosmopolitan on her table. I was like, "Is this what you're reading?" I preceded to sit with her and go through the magazine with her. I learned all about her likes and dislikes by going through something she likes to read. Of course, no one reads any more and now you have to suffer through a person's **tiktok feed** to have something to talk about.

Back to the point, Philip was in the right place at the right time, he discovers, NOT to his surprise, the man reading Isaiah 53. We call this the **Suffering Servant** passage for it prophesies about the Christ and what He will go through to save His people. So, Philip is like do you know who or what you are reading about?

³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone **guides** me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

Wow, talk about **no-sweat** evangelism, Spirit is like go to the desert and jump in that buggy, and be ready to say something. So many times, that’s where we get hung up, **“what should I say?”** Don’t worry about it, the Spirit will give you the words when the time comes, so says Jesus (Lk 12:12). Philip is operating with the knowledge that this is now the HS show, whatever happens it will be because how the HS wants it. I think he is even encouraged here because the Eunuch asks for **guidance**, and Philip knows that is exactly what the Spirit does, as if the Spirit Himself is giving Philip the call:

John 16:33 ESV

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will **guide** you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

The Spirit is going to do the talking & Philip is just the mouth-piece.

**4th You are just the tool of the Spirit for Gospel proclamation
not for spiritual reformation.**

In other words, you are the delivery person, the Spirit is the Pizza that will bring joy, will be served up hot, and will put a smile of satisfaction on someone’s face. We don’t have to own a conversion we just deliver the presence of God to the individual. That’s it.

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

[CHALLENGE + APPLICATION]

Wow! This is like **Aaron Judge**, who will be the HR leader this year, just got called to a church co-ed softball game, and got lobbed a pitch. It doesn’t get any better than that! Philip gets to tell the Eunuch about **Substitutionary**



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

Atonement, he doesn't leave that passage, he stays right there, no Roman Road delivery, no Gospel track, he stays with what the Eunuch is reading and interested in and presents the Gospel and shows Christ all in it. That's another small part in this, you **don't have to know** all the tricks and gimmicks of evangelism, BUT you should know the Bible well enough to explain Jesus or the need for Jesus from any passage in the text.

Another reason for this successful presentation is that the heart of the Ethiopian had been set up already by the Spirit. This Eunuch has traveled over a 1,000 miles to find some hope, he didn't think he had all the answers, he asks for help, even the first Jew he sees on his way back home. He's definitely not embarrassed to stop and ask for directions, and again God promises to help those who are meek.

Psalm 25:9 ESV

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

**5th practice being humble if you want to see
more change in your own heart!**

As we talked about last week no one comes to God full of Pride, Simon tried it and was cursed by Peter for it. What makes us think we will fare any better? If you want to see more change in your heart, be the first to ask for help, be the first to say sorry, be the first to own blame when it is right to do so.

Matthew 5:5 ESV

Blessed are the Meek for they shall inherit the earth.

Meek means being strong and yet choose to submissive for peace's sake, for love's sake, for unity's sake. **God LOVES a humble person** and will seek to put them straight lovingly, to change them, to bring them into the Kingdom, but He despises the proud:

Proverbs 16:5 ESV



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go **unpunished**.

So please let us watch our attitude, let us desire to have our hearts changed, and He will be faithful to that. (Spirit empowered obedience does reward the lost with Truth and you with a life of fulfillment, be humble...)

3. The **Obeying** unto the Spirit.

³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

The Spirit is doing some heavy convicting and ministering to this man, and he is overcome with the sense to show God that he is **obedient**. Philip has undoubtedly explained what he was doing in Samaria and Jerusalem along with the process of Salvation and that is the first act of obedience a believer is to do. When a person comes to Christ, when the irresistible call has been answered, the very first action is BAPTISM βαπτίζω (**baptizō**). vb. to immerse². This is a Dry desert area, yet they came across water? (One can definitely see that God was a Baptist...) I also want to point out I have heard that this is a verse to support spontaneous baptism but please keep in mind Philip is an official of the church, he represents Jerusalem.

[CHALLENGE + APPLICATION]

Being baptized is the sign that you and I have been baptized into the death of Christ and raised also to a new life to live for a risen Savior.

Romans 6:3-4&7 ESV

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin.

6th Obedience to the Spirit starts with Baptism.

We can't overemphasize this enough, as we read James together this week your faith is proven by your actions, and everyone's first action of obedience to God is Baptism. (It is also helpful for the immersed person to remember) So the Eunuch gets baptized and the story comes to an abrupt end.

³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way **rejoicing**. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he **preached** the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Eunuch goes back to Ethiopia, and we don't know what happens to him, other than most speculate that he helped with the conversion of the country, and prepped it for the arrival of future apostles. By the 4th century Ethiopia was one of the first nations that claimed to be Christian.

For Philip well we won't see him then until Acts 21:8, he's grown up, gotten married, and has 4 girls all that spend their time teaching the Bible.

Both men are also responsible to the HS for one more thing.

Philippians 4:4 ESV

⁴**Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

The heart of the Christian, even during suffering as Paul was experiencing in Philippians, and the new convert, is to **rejoice in the good fortune** they have just found. That is the Gospel of Jesus has saved them! One person has found truth in Christ for Salvation and one person has found purpose for life in Christ and both are happy! It is part of the church's call to rejoice when the Salvific work of God is done.



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 26 Spirit Led Evangelism
By Pastor Jody May 03/26/2023**

For the Eunuch it was going home and getting to share what had happened to him. For Philip it was telling the Eunuch about the man he loved named Jesus! For many of us it is the same way. Every encounter is an opportunity to tell people about the man you love the most, and that bring us to the 7th good thing we need to be aware of today.

**7th The sign of successful obedience unto the Spirit is
Rejoicing and more Preaching.**

Here's good news for all of us today, we are never done rejoicing for we should never be done preaching! While there is still breath in our lungs it should be used to describe the glories of God. As we learned it does not matter how much we are persecuted it will only strength and intensify our Bold Proclamation! In this way we all accomplish the imperative truth in this text:

**Spirit empowered obedience rewards the lost with the Truth,
and the Believer with Purpose.**

May we live this week now understanding a little better all the good things we can do, and not neglect our responsibilities to share Christ with our neighbors!

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has invited us to live for Him finding purpose in sharing the story of His Son with others.

Go in the name of the Son, that has lived a life worth talking about and that is powerful enough to give hope to the sinner.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that wants to save the lost and wants to use you as a tool fulfilling the purpose of our creation.