

Acts (Part 2) | New Ground (Acts 8.26-40)

1. This passage opens us with the Spirit leading Philip to go a specific direction and talk to a random person that he encountered.
 - a. Have you ever experienced something similar? If so, what happened?
 - b. What was the result of that experience for you?
2. Clearly, we see in the text that the Spirit does speak and guide. The question for many of us is how do I know that it is the Spirit leading me and not my own feelings?
 - a. How do you answer that question?
3. When Philip engages the Eunuch, instead of pretending to understand what he was reading, the Eunuch was honest about his need for help. The result of his humility and honesty was that God spoke to him through Philip and he came to faith in Jesus. This is not an accident. The scriptures actually teach that humility and honesty is required if we are going to respond to Jesus with trust (e.g. Mat 5:3).
 - a. How have you seen this play out in your own life?
 - b. Where are you tempted to present a facade in order to communicate competence in an area where you are actually weak?
 - c. How do you engage people when they are honest about their weakness or needs with you? Do you make them feel bad about it, or do you help them to grow through it?
4. In this passage we find two examples of simple obedience. Philip just goes and does what God says. The Eunuch gets baptized as soon as he understands the gospel. The result of this kind of faithfulness is the advancement of the kingdom and experiencing joy in Christ.
 - a. In what ways have you experienced the joy of obedience in your own life? What seasons of your life or experiences have brought you the longest lasting joy?
 - b. In what ways have you been tempted to believe the lie that obedience is joyless, and God is holding out on you?