



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Power to be Witnesses

Speaker: Sherin Swift - Pastor of Connections & Equipping

Scriptures: Acts 8:26-35

Philip and the Ethiopian

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[a] 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.”[b]

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.

Sermon Summary:

What does it mean to be empowered as a witness in e everyday life? In Acts 8, we see Phillip sharing the gospel in two different contexts. This Sunday, we'll continue our series through the book of Acts by exploring his conversation with the Ethiopian official. We'll learn that the Holy Spirit can help us share the gospel wherever we go.

Sermon Questions:

1. Read Acts 1:8. Then, read this contextualized version: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Elmhurst, in all Queens and Manhattan and to the ends of the earth.” How does localizing the context change how you hear or receive the message of this verse?
2. After rereading and/or meditating on the passage, what stands out to you about Philip or the Ethiopian? How did Pastor Sherin's message expand your understanding of the characters or what was happening in the scene?

3. Just as the Holy Spirit empowered Philip to be a witness not just to crowds but in one on one conversations, the Holy Spirit is empowering us to be witnesses. Share an example of how the Holy Spirit empowered others to be a witness to you or you to be a witness to others in everyday conversation.
4. Pastor Sherin shared two obstacles to us being led by the Holy Spirit:
 - We aren't listening or expecting God to intervene
 - We don't have margin in our schedule- we are too busy to be interrupted

Which of these obstacles do you resonate with the most and why?

5. Who is on your desert road today? Who do you sense the Holy Spirit wants to send you to? Take time to pray for God to prepare their hearts and for courage to be a witness to them.