

Sermon Discussion 11/01/2015

Acts 8:4-40 – “Global Mission for Ordinary Christians” by Drew Hunter

Sunday's Outline

Facing persecution, the church has now been scattered. Luke records the faithful witness of Philip as he proclaims Christ in Samaria and in the desert, bringing joy to those places through the preaching of the good news of the gospel. Through Philip's actions, we see more clearly God's call to global mission for all his followers in their day-to-day lives. Philip's witness answers the following questions about our call to global missions:

1. Who? Everyone with the church at its heart
2. What? Everything with proclamation at the center
3. Where? Everywhere with the unreached as our priority
4. Why? Every reason with joy as the aim

Our response must be one of obedience and openness – obedient to be faithful witnesses who are open to the Lord's leading. The text shows us that Philip was already busy with his mission to preach the gospel when God intervened and instructed him where he should go that unreached people groups would hear the good news. May the same be true of us!

Quotations

“Mission begins with a kind of explosion of joy. The newness that the rejected and crucified Jesus is alive is something that cannot possibly be suppressed. It must be told. Who could be silent about such a fact? The mission of the Church in the pages of the New Testament is like the fallout from a vast explosion, a radioactive fallout which is not lethal but life-giving.” -Lesslie Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*, 116

Help for Understanding & Application

- 1) Everyone whom Jesus saves, He sends on mission. How would you articulate the mission to which God has called you? Use Scripture references.
- 2) Why are those young in their faith generally the best evangelists? Can you attest to this? Share with the group the last time you shared the gospel with an unbeliever.
- 3) How does the text clue us in to the fact that the proclamation of the gospel was at the center of what Philip had to share with those who heard him? What was the effect on those who heard? (see also Acts 8:8)
- 4) The story of the gospel is told through the entirety of Scripture. Explain the central importance of Isaiah 53 to the New Testament understanding of who Jesus is.
- 5) Distinguish between mission and missions.
- 6) Explain how the delay between the time the Samaritans believed and when they received the Holy Spirit once the apostles laid hands on them created a moment of affirmation and approval for them.
- 7) “There are still around one billion people in the world who have not heard the message of Jesus. The majority of these people live in the so-called 10/40 window... It refers to the regions of the world in the eastern hemisphere between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator. This ‘window’ contains most of the unreached peoples of the world, as well as many of the world's poorest people. It is where most of the world's Muslims, Hindu's and Buddhists live. Yet this region receives far fewer Christian resources and missionaries than elsewhere in the world” (Tim Chester, *Mission Matters*, 104). In light of this truth and the text in Acts 8, how should we respond?