

How Far Will God Go To Save One?

Acts 8:26-40

September 29, 2019

Narrative passages in the Bible convey God's Word in story form; true happenings with historical basis describing actual events.

One key to interpreting biblical narrative (found in historical books of the Old Testament, the gospels and Acts) is the story line.

Setting and characters—who is involved and where are they?

²⁶Now 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. ²⁷And 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. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."

Rising action—what is the problem that needs to be solved?

³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

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

} Isaiah 53:7-8

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

Turning point—what is the solution to the problem?

³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

Falling action—what changes occur as a result?

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.

Resolution—what happens to the characters next?

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.

HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO OUR LIVES TODAY?

1. What is unique about this true story? **everything**
2. God sends **prepared** messengers to share good news with people He has prepared to receive it.

NOTE: "evangelism" is telling someone the good news about Jesus, not telling someone how to be good.

3. You cannot tell by **looking** whether or not someone has a receptive heart to hearing the good news about Jesus.
4. God goes **beyond** racial, sexual, ethnic, religious, etc. barriers to save people through faith in Jesus.
5. Ask questions. **Listen** . Learn. **Love** . Lead.
6. Learn to speak **Bible** , especially about who Jesus is and what He has done to provide salvation.

LifeGroup Homework

Share with one another a trip that you took over the summertime. Keep it brief so more in the group can share.

- 1) What insight, observation or principle did you find eye-opening, helpful, or troubling from today's sermon?
- 2) *agree/disagree*
God arranges my daily circumstances and brings me to people that He has prepared to have a spiritual conversation with me.
- 3) READ Isaiah 53. Does this point to Christ? How?
The quotation from Isaiah 53 is in the center of Acts 8:26-40. (There are 7 verses before and 7 verses after the quote.)
- 4) READ Deuteronomy 23:1 and Isaiah 56:3-6. What was the stipulation regarding eunuchs under Mosaic law? How did Isaiah see this changing in the last days under the Messiah?
- 5) Who is someone that you are overlooking in your daily routine that needs to hear good news about Jesus?
- 6) What is one thing you could say or do to help them to take even one step closer to Jesus?
 - When will you do it? _____
 - Who will pray for you? _____

Africa in the Bible

1. Moses married an African. T/F
2. David wrote a psalm in which he prophesies Africans will submit to God. T/F
3. A famous African queen visited Solomon's court. T/F
4. An African rescued Jeremiah from the cistern where he had been left to die. T/F
5. Jesus visited Africa during his time on earth. T/F
6. The man who carried Jesus' cross was African. T/F
7. Africans were present at Pentecost in Acts 2. T/F
8. Peter led an African to faith in Jesus in Acts 8. T/F
9. Two prophets/teachers at the Antioch church, which sent the first missionaries, were Africans. T/F
10. African people are included in Revelation 5 & 7. T/F

ANSWERS: 1) T 2) F 3) T 4) T 5) T 6) F 7) T 8) T 9) T 10) T
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