



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Reaching Your World

Date: March 22, 2026

Scripture Text: Acts 8:25-40

Notes:

In 1972 Southern Baptists baptized 450,000 people. This was the high-water mark when it comes to number of baptisms. Since then, the general population has increased, and number of churches have increased, yet the number of baptisms has decreased. In 2025 the number of baptisms dropped to 250,000. There are many factors to consider and ultimately is it God who does the work of converting a lost person, yet it begs the question, what are we doing to share Jesus with others? It comes down to who Jesus is and how He saved you. Are you willing to share that with someone else? Today, let's consider two questions concerning what I'm willing to do for Jesus: 1) where am I willing to go? and 2) what am I willing to say?

1) Where am I Willing to Go? (Acts 8:25-29)

Philip and others had been ministering in Samaria. Ministry was booming, many being saved. Yet amid his "success" the Holy Spirit is calling him away to a deserted road to meet with a man who had questions that Philip had the answer for. The man with questions was an Ethiopian eunuch, who was in an influential position, an official in the court of the queen of Ethiopia. Philip go up and went where the Holy Spirit directed him, a deserted road in Gaza.

- To answer the question "where are you willing to go?" begins with obeying the direction of the Holy Spirit.
 - [Matt. 28:19](#) states to "GO make disciples". Where have you gone lately to make a disciple?
 - 'Going' isn't necessarily always going to faraway lands, it could be going to your next-door neighbor's or saying a word to the cashier or waitress. What is your biggest hesitation about 'going'?
 - It's important to have 'listening ears' to the Holy Spirit. Not only to go where He directs, but to know where NOT to go. He equips for where He leads.
 - How well to you hear the direction of the Holy Spirit?
 - What can you do to turn up your Holy Spirit *hearing aids* to hear Him more clearly?
- Additionally, are you willing to leave your comfort zone.
 - Philip was way out of his routine. Outside Jewish territory talking to a Gentile. Yet he immediately responded to the direction of the Holy Spirit. What are examples for you that may be outside your comfort zone?
 - What do you find concerning or fearful about leaving your comfort zone?
 - How can focusing on the eternal need of others help you overcome your fears?



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Notes:

2) What am I Willing to Say! (Acts 8:30-35)

“The Ethiopian was reading [Is 53:7–8](#), apparently from the Greek text. It is likely that he was reading the entire Suffering Servant section of Isaiah (52:13–53:12). The eunuch’s question, who is the prophet saying this about, allowed Philip to explain Jesus as the subject of the passage. It is Jesus, not Isaiah, who suffered for the sins of humanity ([Is 53:6](#)). From the earliest days of the church, the Suffering Servant section has been seen as an ideal starting place for explaining the gospel.” (Blum)

- God had already been working on the heart of the Ethiopian before Philip got there. Philip was available for God to use. How available are you for God to use?
 - The Ethiopian had questions about what he was reading in scripture. How comfortable are you answering questions about the Bible?
 - How can you get more comfortable?
- How comfortable are you sharing your own personal testimony, how you were saved?
 - Many times, sharing how you came to accept Christ as your personal Savior is a great way to help someone understand their need for Christ as well.
 - Incorporating these 4 verses can help as well:
 - [Rom. 3:23](#); for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - [Rom. 6:23](#); For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - [Rom. 5:8](#); But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
 - [Rom. 10:9](#); that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved
- Ultimately, the results are God’s. It’s not our job to save them. We are just called to share.
- In your own words, describe what is needed to be saved? Why is there a need for salvation? Why is Jesus the only way to heaven?

Three questions to help stay focused when you have opportunity to share:

- (1) Do I care whether others go to hell?
- (2) What am I doing about it?
- (3) Do I love Jesus?