

Divine Encounter

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Acts 8:26-40
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Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

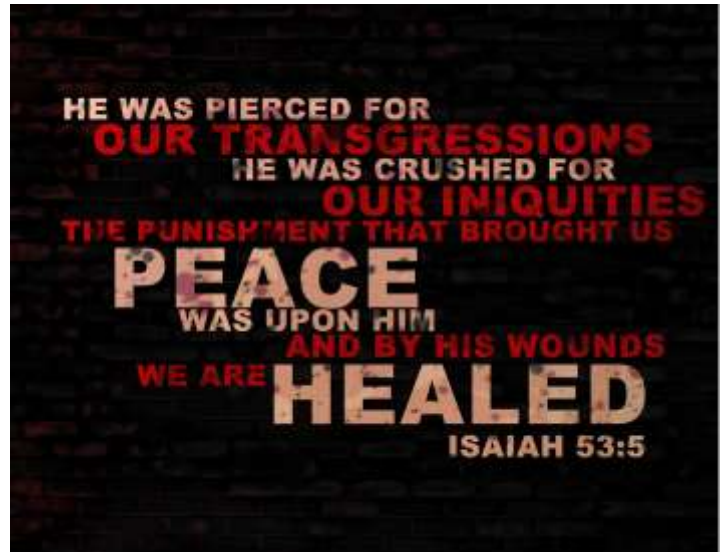
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In the second part of Acts chapter 8, we see Philip's encounter with an Ethiopian; guided by the Holy Spirit Philip hurries to meet the traveler. The Ethiopian is a worshiper of the one true God and is reading Isaiah 53. There may not be a better passage in the Old Testament to teach someone that Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. Philip, without question, follows the direction of the Holy Spirit and spreads the Gospel to this foreigner. The Ethiopian is immediately baptized and rejoices in the Lord as he continues to travel back home. Philip is used to spread the Gospel and now God wants to use you to spread the glory of His Word.



EXAMINE His Word (Observation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Acts 8:26-40 (NET)

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. There he met an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and was returning home, sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. He asked him, "Do you understand what you're reading?" ³¹ The man replied, "How in the world can I, unless someone guides me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of scripture the man was reading was this:

"He was led like a sheep to slaughter, and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

³³ ***In humiliation justice was taken from him. Who can describe his posterity? For his life was taken away from the earth."***

³⁴ Then the eunuch said to Philip, "Please tell me, who is the prophet saying this about—himself or someone else?" ³⁵ So Philip started speaking, and beginning with this scripture proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. ³⁶ Now as they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water! What is to stop me from being baptized?" ³⁸ So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any more, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through the area, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in this passage that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)

What does God MEAN?

8. In verse 27 it says the Ethiopian had come to Jerusalem to worship. Who do you think he was worshiping in Jerusalem?
9. a. The Ethiopian did not know who was being talked about in the Isaiah passage that he was reading: Isaiah 53:7-8. Who was being talked about?

b. How is this person like a lamb before its shearer silent?

c. Where in the gospel account is this fulfilled?
10. In verse 32 it quotes Isaiah saying “like a lamb before its shearer is silent so he did not open his mouth.” How is this prophesy from Isaiah fulfilled?

11. Why do you think the Ethiopian was so eager to be baptized right away?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)**

Why does this MATTER to me?

12. As soon as the Ethiopian understands and accepts the Gospel, he is ready to be baptized. Is there ever good reason to have people wait to be baptized?

13. In this Acts passage, Philip is first sent by the angel and then is guided to approach the chariot by the spirit. Do you think the Holy Spirit still guides us to have this type of divine encounter today? Have you ever crossed paths with someone and felt it was a divine appointment?

14. Read Isaiah 53 and see how many separate prophecies from this chapter are fulfilled in the life and death of Christ. Note any verses that could be used to explain the Gospel.

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES