

Together Service Sunday, August 30

Worship

Connection Cards / Offering

- Welcome Graphic
- Zack and Kaci graphic – see Vanessa
- Offering graphic

Pastor John – What you gotta know

2.0 Tipping Point – Lesson 3 whatyagottaknow - graphic

Pastor John - power verse

3.0 Tipping Point – Lesson 3 power verse - graphic

I. The Holy Spirit leads me to someone He has prepared.

Acts 8:26-28

²⁶ As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Graphic #1

A. Unpack

1. Verse 26 says, "An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip."
 - a. Philip had been ministering successfully in Samaria.
 - b. Yet God told him to leave what looked successful and go toward Gaza.
 - c. The text specifically calls it a "desert" or "deserted" road.
2. Verse 27 says Philip "arose and went."
 - a. Philip did not argue with God.
 - b. He did not demand an explanation.
 - c. He obeyed before he knew what God was going to do.

3. God was sending Philip toward one Ethiopian official.
 - a. He was a man of significant authority.
 - b. He was the treasurer of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians.
 - c. He had traveled to Jerusalem to worship.
 - d. He was now returning home and reading Isaiah.
4. Verse 29 gives another important detail: "Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over and walk beside his chariot.'"
 - a. God first gave Philip the general direction.
 - b. Then the Holy Spirit gave him the specific assignment.
 - c. Philip had to get close enough to the person before he could minister to him.

B. We must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit is not merely an idea or theological doctrine.
2. He is the Spirit of God who guides, directs, empowers, convicts, and sends God's people.
3. Acts is filled with believers responding to the direction of the Spirit.
4. Spirit-filled people should be willing to say, "Lord, where do You want me to go?"

C. Illustration #1 — The GPS

1. When you use GPS, you do not have to know every turn before you begin.
2. You simply follow the next direction.
3. Sometimes God does the same thing with us.
4. He may not show us the whole road, but He will show us the next step.

D. Illustration #2 — The teacher who notices one child

1. Imagine a classroom where twenty-nine children understand the lesson but one child is struggling.
2. A good teacher does not say, "Twenty-nine got it, so we're finished."
3. The teacher goes to the one.
4. God is willing to redirect our plans because one person matters to Him.

E. Application

1. **Ask God to make you sensitive to divine appointments.**
 - a. The person sitting beside you may need encouragement.
 - b. The coworker who keeps asking spiritual questions may be searching for God.
 - c. The neighbor you keep seeing may be someone God wants you to reach.
2. **Don't despise the assignment that seems small.**
 - a. Philip left a citywide revival to minister to one man.
 - b. We should never measure the value of ministry only by the size of the crowd.

3. Obey before you understand everything.

- a. Philip did not know what was waiting on the road.
- b. He simply went.
- c. Sometimes the miracle is waiting on the other side of our obedience.

Philip followed the Spirit to the right person.

- But once he got there, he still needed to know what to say.
- The Spirit not only leads us to people; He helps us bring them to the Word of God.

2.0 Tipping Point – Lesson 3 whatyagottaknow - graphic

3.0 Tipping Point – Lesson 3 power verse - graphic

II. The Holy Spirit opens doors for us to point people to Jesus.

Acts 8:30–35

³⁰ Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

³¹ The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

³² The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.

And as a lamb is silent before the shearers,
he did not open his mouth.

³³ He was humiliated and received no justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?” ³⁵ So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

Graphic #2

A. Unpack the text

1. Philip runs to the chariot and hears the Ethiopian reading Isaiah the prophet.
2. Philip asks a direct but respectful question: "Do you understand what you are reading?"
 - a. Philip did not begin with an argument.
 - b. He began with a conversation.
 - c. He met the man where he was.

3. The Ethiopian responds, "How can I, unless someone guides me?"
 - a. He recognized that he needed help understanding Scripture.
 - b. His heart was already open.
 - c. Philip was not forcing a conversation on someone who wanted nothing to do with God.
4. The passage the Ethiopian was reading was Isaiah 53:7–8.
 - a. Isaiah describes a suffering servant who is led like a sheep to slaughter.
 - b. The servant is humiliated and deprived of justice.
 - c. The Ethiopian asks whether Isaiah is talking about himself or someone else.
5. Verse 35 says, "Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus."
 - a. Philip began with the Scripture the man was already reading.
 - b. But Philip did not stop with Isaiah.
 - c. He preached Jesus.
 - d. The goal of biblical preaching is not merely to explain information.
 - e. The goal is to bring people face-to-face with Jesus Christ.

B. The Spirit and the Word work together - SOOOO Important!!!!

1. The Holy Spirit inspired Scripture.
2. The Holy Spirit helps us understand Scripture.
3. The Holy Spirit uses Scripture to reveal Jesus.
4. We do not have to choose between the Word and the Spirit.
5. A Spirit-filled church should also be a Bible-filled church.

Illustration #1 — A flashlight

1. Imagine being in a completely dark room.
2. You may know the furniture is there, but you cannot see where to walk.
3. When the light comes on, what was already there becomes visible.
4. The Holy Spirit illuminates God's Word and helps us see what God is saying.

Illustration #2 — A treasure map

1. A treasure map can contain valuable information.
2. But if you cannot read the map, you may walk right past the treasure.
3. The Ethiopian had the Scriptures, but he needed someone to help him understand them.
4. Philip opened the Scripture and showed him the treasure: Jesus.

Illustration #3 — Talking to someone who is searching

1. Sometimes people begin asking spiritual questions long before they walk through the doors of a church.
2. They may ask, "Why am I here?"
3. "Can God forgive me?"
4. "Why does God allow suffering?"
5. "What happens after death?"
6. Those questions can become opportunities to point people to Jesus.

Application

1. **Know your Bible.**
 - a. You cannot share what you do not know.
 - b. Children can learn Scripture.
 - c. Teenagers can know Scripture.
 - d. Adults can know Scripture.
2. **Ask God to help you recognize spiritual conversations.**
 - a. Listen before you speak.
 - b. Ask questions.
 - c. Let people tell you where they are spiritually.
3. **When the door opens, point people to Jesus.**
 - a. Don't make yourself the hero of the story.
 - b. Don't merely give people advice.
 - c. Give them Jesus.
 - d. Jesus is the answer to sin, guilt, fear, brokenness, and separation from God.

Philip started with Isaiah, but he ended with Jesus

When Jesus becomes clear, the next step is faith and obedience.

4.25 Tipping Point – Game time – 37 second video

- **Pastor John Game**
- Pastor John will give clarity on exactly when to play the video
- After video ends play bumper music – see pastor John

III. The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus so we can obey Him.

Acts 8:36

As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?"

Graphic #3

A. Unpack

1. As they traveled, they came to some water.
2. The Ethiopian asks, "See, here is water! What hinders me from being baptized?"
 - a. His question reveals that something had happened in his heart.
 - b. He had heard the Gospel.
 - c. He had responded in faith.
 - d. Now he wanted to obey Christ.
3. Baptism was not presented as an optional religious accessory.
 - a. It was an outward expression of an inward work of grace.
 - b. He wanted everyone to know that he had identified himself with Jesus.
4. Verse 38 says they stopped the chariot, and Philip baptized him.

Acts 8:38

He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

Graphic #4

B. Salvation produces a response.

1. We are saved by grace through faith, not by performing religious works.
2. But genuine faith produces obedience.
3. The Holy Spirit does not merely make us feel something; He changes the direction of our lives.
4. We should not separate an emotional response from a life of obedience.

Illustration #1 — A wedding ring

1. A wedding ring does not create a marriage.
2. The ring is an outward sign of a covenant relationship.
3. In a similar way, water baptism does not earn salvation.
4. It publicly identifies a believer with Jesus Christ.

Illustration #2 — Putting on a team jersey

1. A child may say, "I'm on the team."
2. But eventually everyone needs to know which team they belong to.
3. Putting on the jersey is a public identification.
4. Baptism publicly identifies us with Jesus.

Application

1. **If you have never surrendered your life to Jesus, today is a day to respond.**
 - a. Don't simply admire Jesus.
 - b. Don't simply know about Jesus.
 - c. Put your faith in Jesus.
2. **If you have believed in Christ but have not been baptized, take the step of obedience.**
 - Follow Christ publicly.
3. **Ask yourself: "Is there anything God has told me to do that I am refusing to obey?"**
 - a. Forgive someone.
 - b. Make something right.
 - c. Share your faith.
 - d. Step into ministry.
 - e. Surrender an area of your life to God.
4. **Obedience is not punishment; obedience is an expression of love.**

The story could have ended with the baptism.

But God had one more miracle for the Ethiopian

God was about to turn his salvation experience into supernatural joy.

IV. Following Jesus gives me Joy

2.0 Tipping Point – Lesson 3 whatyagottaknow - graphic

3.0 Tipping Point – Lesson 3 power verse - graphic

Acts 8:39–40

³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.

A. Unpack

1. Verse 39 says, "When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away."

- a. Philip's assignment was complete.
 - b. God supernaturally moved Philip to another place.
 - c. The emphasis is not on Philip's ministry but on God's ability to accomplish His purpose.
2. Then comes one of the most beautiful statements in the passage:
"And he went on his way rejoicing."
- a. The Ethiopian came to the road searching.
 - b. He encountered the Word.
 - c. He encountered Jesus.
 - d. He responded in faith.
 - e. He was baptized.
 - f. And he went home rejoicing.
3. Verse 40 says Philip continued preaching the Gospel throughout the region.
- a. The Gospel did not stop with one encounter.
 - b. Philip continued ministering.
 - c. The Ethiopian went his way with joy.
 - d. One believer was sent one direction, another believer was sent another direction, but God's purpose continued.

B. The presence of God produces supernatural joy.

- 1. Biblical joy is deeper than temporary happiness.
- 2. Happiness depends on circumstances.
- 3. Joy comes from knowing Jesus.
- 4. The Ethiopian was traveling home with circumstances that had not necessarily changed.
- 5. But **he had changed**.
- 6. He had encountered Jesus.

Illustration #1 — A child opening a Christmas present

- 1. A child can receive a gift and immediately want everyone to know about it.
- 2. The excitement spills out.
- 3. When we truly understand what Jesus has done for us, the Gospel should produce something inside us that wants to be shared.

Illustration #2 — Good news that cannot be kept secret

- 1. If you receive the phone call that you have been waiting for, you usually tell somebody.
- 2. If your child is born, you tell somebody.
- 3. If you get engaged, you tell somebody.
- 4. If something wonderful happens, you naturally want to share it.

5. The Gospel is the greatest news we have ever received.

Illustration #3 — The difference between happiness and joy

1. Happiness says, "Everything is going well, so I am happy."
2. Joy says, "Even when everything isn't going well, I still know Jesus."
3. The Ethiopian's joy came from a relationship with Christ, not merely from comfortable circumstances.

Application

1. **Don't allow difficult circumstances to steal what Jesus has given you.**
 - a. Your joy is not dependent upon having a perfect week.
 - b. Your joy is not dependent upon everyone treating you correctly.
 - c. Your joy is rooted in Christ.
2. **Let your joy become a witness.**
 - a. People should be able to see that Jesus has made a difference in your life.
 - b. Your coworkers should see it.
 - c. Your family should see it.
 - d. Your children should see it.
3. **Come back to the presence of God when your joy grows weak.**
 - a. Pray.
 - b. Worship.
 - c. Read the Word.
 - d. Seek the Holy Spirit.
 - e. Get around God's people.
4. **Remember what Jesus has done for you.**
 - a. He forgave you.
 - b. He rescued you.
 - c. He gave you new life.
 - d. He gave you hope.
 - e. He gave you His Spirit.
 - f. He gave you a future.