**Rise & Go!**

**Acts 8:26-40**

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* Acts 1:8

I. The PREPARATION Of The SOIL

**A. God’s SOVEREIGN purpose**

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins.* Ephesians 2:1

*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.* 1 Corinthians 2:14

*Now 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.*Acts 8:26

**B. Philip’s SUBMISSIVE will**

*And he rose and went.* Acts 8:27a

**C. The eunuch’s SEARCHING heart**

*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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.*Acts 8:27b-28

*You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.* Jeremiah 29:13

II. The EXPLANATION Of The SCRIPTURE

***28****and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.****29****And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.”****30****So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet...* Acts 8:28-30a

**A. Our witness must be BIBLE-BASED**

***30****So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”* ***31****And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.****32****Now 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.* ***33****In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”* ***34****And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”****35****Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.* Acts 8:30-35

**B. Our witness must be CHRIST-CENTERED**

*Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.* Acts 8:35

*Put each of these paragraphs on an individual slide:*

**Now What?**

What is that thing you wish was different about you? You try to change your response, circumstances, or behavior, but it doesn't work. You just can't make progress. You just can’t break through.

**Anything But Average**

You don't want to be an average husband or wife. You don't want to be an average parent. You don't want to be an average friend, employee or boss.

**Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness**

We all want life and liberty. Everyone wants to pursue happiness. But few experience those things to the fullest. Sometimes we feel trapped in life. We're unhappy. Why is that? One reason is that we need to uncover, discover, and recover our stories.

*And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.**For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.* 1 Corinthians 2:1-2

***10****In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.* ***11****In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.* ***12****He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.* Isaiah 11:10-12

***3****Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, “The Lord will surely separate me from his people”; and let not the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.”* ***4****For thus says the Lord: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant,* ***5****I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.* Isaiah 56:3-4

III. The CONFIRMATION Of The SOUL

**A. A BELIEVING heart**

*And 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?”*Acts 8:37

**B. A CONFESSING mouth**

***38****And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.****39****And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away,* Acts 8:38-39a

**C. A REJOICING life**

*the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.* Acts 8:39b

**So What?**

The word of God keeps going out and God keeps bringing people in.

*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.* 1 Corinthians 3:6

**Last Thought:** We must be faithful to do OUR PART, and trust God to do HIS PART.