

God Goes After the One: Obedience That Doesn't Make Headlines

Acts 8:26-40 · Kaká Monteiro · August 30, 2026

The interrupted revival, the desert road, the outsider who asks "what can stand in the way?"

THE CENTRAL IDEA

"God interrupts a revival for the sake of one person, and calls us to run alongside the chariot."

Philip was where every preacher dreams of being: crowds, signs, a whole city rejoicing. God sends him to the desert, for a man no headline would notice and the law kept outside. The greatest miracle in the text isn't the angel: it is an immediate "yes" that ends with an outsider going down into the water, full of joy.

THE MESSAGE IN 3 MOVEMENTS

01 Obey even when the detour makes no sense.

Philip doesn't ask for a second confirmation or ask why. As John Piper notes, the hardest test isn't hearing God in the extraordinary, but interrupting a fruitful ministry for a call that makes no headlines. Visible success is not permission to stop listening.

02 Ask, listen and sit beside.

The eunuch had the scroll of Isaiah in his hands and was lost inside the text. Philip runs, asks an honest question, waits to be invited up and starts from where the man already was. That is discipleship: walking side by side, not above or below.

03 The name no one could give.

The law kept the eunuch outside (Deut 23:1) and without descendants. He was reading about a Servant who also had no children and whose death gives place and name to those who had none. When the Spirit has already acted, "what can stand in the way?" has only one answer.

READING THE TEXT · ACTS 8:26-40

Acts 8:26-28 · A detour no one would understand

An angel sends Philip from Samaria to the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. He gets up and goes. On the road is an Ethiopian eunuch, treasurer of Queen Candace, who had gone to Jerusalem to worship and is heading home reading the prophet Isaiah in his chariot.

Acts 8:29-35 · Someone needs to explain

The Spirit tells Philip: "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Philip runs and asks: "Do you understand what you are reading?" "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" The man invites him up, and Philip, starting from Isaiah 53, tells him the good news about Jesus.

Acts 8:36-40 · What can stand in the way?

When they come to some water, the eunuch asks: "What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" Both go down into the water and Philip baptizes him. The Spirit takes Philip away, and the eunuch goes on his way rejoicing.

QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUP

To open: tell about someone who stopped what they were doing to explain something you couldn't understand, at school, at work, in faith.

- 1 Philip left a revival for a desert road without asking for an explanation. When God interrupts something that is "working" in your life, what is usually your first reaction? Why?
- 2 The eunuch had the Bible in his hands but needed someone to explain it. Who was the Philip in your life? And is there someone today for whom you could be that Philip?
- 3 Philip asked, waited for the invitation and sat beside him. How is that different from the way we sometimes try to convince people? What honest question could you ask someone this week?
- 4 "What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" carried years of exclusion. Who are the "eunuchs" around us, people who feel shut out of the church? How can the group make room for them?

KEY PASSAGES

Isaiah 53:7-8, "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter." The text the eunuch was reading already pointed to Jesus; Philip only needed to start there.

Isaiah 56:4-5, "To the eunuchs who hold fast to my covenant... I will give a name better than sons and daughters." The promise fulfilled on the road to Gaza.

Romans 10:14, "How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" God still sends ordinary people to the chariots.

TO CLOSE

A step for this week. Write down the name of one person God has been putting in your path and take a concrete step toward them: an honest question, a "how can I pray for you?", a coffee. If you already believe and haven't been baptized, ask yourself: what stands in the way?

Prayer. Thank God that he ran after each of us. Ask for sensitivity to notice the interruptions that come from him and courage to run alongside someone's chariot this week.



Watch the message again: point your phone camera here.