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New Normal

Obedience in the New Normal

Acts 8:26–40 (HCSB)

An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: “Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is the desert road.)²⁷ So he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man, a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem²⁸ and was sitting in his chariot on his way home, reading the prophet Isaiah aloud.²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go and join that chariot.”³⁰ When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you’re reading?”³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone guides me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.³² Now the Scripture passage he was reading was this: He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before its shearer, so He does not open His mouth.³³ In His humiliation justice was denied Him. Who will describe His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.³⁴ The eunuch replied to Philip, “I ask you, who is the prophet saying this about—himself or another person?”³⁵ So Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus, beginning from that Scripture.³⁶ As they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, “Look, there’s water! What would keep me from being baptized?”³⁷ [And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart you may.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”]³⁸ Then he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any longer. But he went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ Philip appeared in Azotus, and he was traveling and evangelizing all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

1. IN THE NEW NORMAL, WE ARE MORE MOTIVATED TO _____ FROM GOD vv 26-29

- We must have a close enough relationship to God to hear Him when He speaks to us.
- _____ from God demands action from us.

2. THE NEW NORMAL BRINGS NEW _____ vv 30-34

- Changes bring new opportunities.
- When we _____ where God is working, that is an opening to join Him.

3. THE _____ TO MAKE DISCIPLES CONTINUES IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE v 35

- We must always be ready to tell the good news.
- New circumstances create new ways to share the gospel.

4. BE READY TO _____ IN THE NEW NORMAL vv 36-38

- Even if you’ve never done it that way, it may be time to _____.
- New ways can become old ways when practiced enough times.

5. WHEN THE NEW NORMAL BECOMES NORMAL, BE _____ FOR YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT vv 39-40

- When we become available to God, we must _____ for our next assignment.
- God wants to use us to advance His kingdom.

The Steps to Salvation

- _____ that you are a sinner. (Romans 3:23)
- Understand that you are separated from God. (Romans 6:23)
- _____ that Christ died for you. (Romans 5:8)
- Repent and confess your sins to God. (1 John 1:9)
- _____ to Jesus as Lord. (Romans 10:9-10)

The Next Step:

Look for ways to be obedient to God in your new normal.