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| **Grant Street Baptist Church** | **Sermon Notes** |
| **Jeremy Beck** | **September 5, 2021** |

Title: *“God’s Ways are not Our Ways”*

Scripture: **Acts 8:26-40**

Message: **1. The Mystery** (vs 26)

**26**Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south (at noon…few travelers would be on the road in the harsh midday sun) to the road—the desert road (a paved road suitable for a carriage)—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

* Philip was summoned by God to walk away from a thriving ministry in Samaria to the wilderness of the Judean Hills
* God’s goal is not quantity (Matthew 7:14 “small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it), but quality
* In a day where so many are lost we shouldn’t be surprised when God calls the most effective evangelists to go to the most remote places
* Isaiah 55:8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord

**2. The Mission** (vs’ 27-38)

**27**So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (kahn-ah-kee) (or Candace…title not a name) (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, **28**and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. **29**The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” (the carriage is moving slowly enough to allow Philip to approach it on foot) **30**Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading (customary practice in ancient times to read aloud) Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked (reading and understanding are not the same thing). **31**“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. (humble and teachable are requirements for salvation; God not only provides the scriptures but also the interpreters (spirit filled teachers and the Holy Spirit)) **32**This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. **33**In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”[Isaiah 53:7-8] **34**The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” **35**Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. **36**As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” **[37 “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”]** (not a literal translation from the original manuscripts, was added 400-600AD by a scribe to make sure there wasn’t confusion that the eunuch was saved by baptism) **38**And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

**3. The Ministry** (vs’ 39-40)

**39**When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. **40**Philip, however, appeared at Azotus (uh-ZO-tus) (non Jewish soil) and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea (zeh-suh-REE-uh).

* Caesarea (zeh-suh-REE-uh) was in Israel, Jewish ministry again
* Now Philips ministry has become a coastal ministry unlike Jerusalem or Samaria

1. [Proverbs 22:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=proverbs%2022:6&version=NIV#en-NIV-17022) : [Eph 6:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Eph%206:4&version=NIV)
2. [Proverbs 22:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=proverbs%2022:6&version=NIV#en-NIV-17022) : [S Dt 6:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut%206:7&version=NIV)

Application:

* *God’s Ways are not Our Ways*…
* **The Mystery**
  + We become frustrated trying to understand what God is up to because we cannot think like God and our ways are not God’s ways
* **The Mission**
  + We are called out sometimes to pour into just one person for a period of time and that’s a successful mission in the eyes of God…quality not quantity
* **The Ministry**
  + We are asked to serve God’s people long term and sometimes what we are asked to do will not be familiar territory or it may not be with familiar people or it may not be familiar territory or people…He just wants your obedience not your understanding