



Acts 8 — Who Is Welcome in the Kingdom of God?

The Story of the Ethiopian Eunuch



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A Person the Religious System Excluded

Acts 8 introduces us to an Ethiopian eunuch.

In the ancient world eunuchs occupied a complicated social status:

- **Often trusted officials in royal courts**
- **Yet ritually excluded from full participation in Israel's worship life**

The Law stated:

Deuteronomy 23:1 "No one whose testicles are crushed or whose male organ is cut off shall enter the assembly of the Lord."

For generations this passage had been understood to exclude eunuchs from the congregation of Israel.



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Yet This Man Is Seeking God

Despite exclusion, the eunuch was already pursuing God. Acts 8 tells us he had:

- Traveled to Jerusalem to worship
- Was reading the prophet Isaiah
- Was searching for understanding

This is a deeply important moment in the early church.

The gospel is about to reach someone the religious system had previously pushed to the margins.



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Yet This Man Is Seeking God

Acts 8: 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. 29 The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.”

- Philip finds the eunuch reading Isaiah 53.
- Philip explains the good news about Jesus.
- Then the eunuch asks the most important question in the story:

“What prevents me from being baptized?”



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The Answer Is NOTHING!

Philip does not say:

- “You must first fix being a eunuch.”
- “You must change who you are.”
- “You must become like us first.”

Instead: Philip baptized him immediately.

The story shows the gospel doing what Jesus always did:

Removing barriers between people and God.



The Gospel Opens the Door

The Ethiopian eunuch becomes the first recorded African Christian believer. The story shows something profound about the Kingdom of God:

- God sees the outsiders, the forbidden, the forsaken and the forgotten
- God sends someone to meet them
- God removes the barriers
- God welcomes them into the family

If you are asking the same question he asked, “What prevents me?”

The answer of the gospel is simple:

NOTHING!



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The Promise of God

3 “Don’t let foreigners who commit themselves to the Lord say, ‘The Lord will never let me be part of his people.’ And don’t let the eunuchs say, ‘I’m a dried-up tree with no children and no future.’ 4 For this is what the Lord says: I will bless those eunuchs who keep my Sabbath days holy and who choose to do what pleases me and commit their lives to me.

5 I will give them—within the walls of my house— a memorial and a name far greater than sons and daughters could give. For the name I give them is an everlasting one. It will never disappear!

