

## Jesus Changed My Life-Your Identity is in Christ

October 24th and 27th, 2019

Scripture: Acts 8.26-39

### Acts 8.26-39 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” <sup>27</sup> 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 (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

<sup>31</sup> “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?  
For his life was taken from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> 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?” <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> 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.

### Read and Discuss

#### Introduction

Pastor Jacob wrapped up his series *Jesus Changed My Life* with the question, “What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” When we get confused about our true identity, the waters of baptism remind us. In Christian baptism we experience the Holy Spirit as we confess faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

#### Engage the Scripture

- Reflect on some of the different names or labels you’ve worn over the course of your life. List 5 that you carry with pride, and 5 that you’ve had to overcome. Family name? Place you lived? A special ability? A disability? A trauma? Your occupation? Your relationships? Your accent?

**Jesus Changed My Life-Your Identity is in Christ**  
**October 24th and 27th, 2019**  
Scripture: Acts 8.26-39

5 Names to Claim

5 Names to Overcome

- Read Acts 8.26-39. This story has some great imagery—the angel, the chariot, the scroll, the water, the baptism, the rejoicing. Which of these images stand out to you?
- The Ethiopian eunuch (talk about a label to overcome!) has been to Jerusalem to worship and is deeply engaged in the words of the prophet Isaiah. Read verses 32-33 again. These words were originally recorded well before Jesus was born but Philip pointed to the places where Jesus was present in the words of the prophet. Has anyone ever helped you see new truth or a bigger picture out of something old?
- The Ethiopian man was so moved by the revelation of Jesus Christ through Philip that he wanted to respond by being baptized. It was a pretty good baptism story to remember! If you have been baptized, do you remember that day or has someone told you about it? What is your most profound memory of experiencing God’s grace for yourself?
- If you haven’t claimed the name “Christian” by repenting of your sin and confessing faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, consider if the following points lifted up in Jacob’s sermon apply to you.
  1. You sense that the Spirit of God is active in your life
  2. Even though you don’t understand it all, you are seeking God
  3. You have confessed belief that Jesus is the Son of God who showed us the way to eternal life through his own life, death and resurrection from the grave
  4. You rejoice at the sight of others accepting Christ and begin baptized

If this is you, and you are in a group as you study, see if there is anyone there who will “help you to the water”. Contact your local church to learn more or email Pastor Mark at [myoungman@prov.church](mailto:myoungman@prov.church) to learn more about baptism.

**Pray**

Wrap up your time of study by sharing and receiving this blessing from an historic baptismal covenant—

*The God of all grace,  
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,  
establish you and strengthen you  
that you may live in grace and peace.*