



HIGHER

OR

DEEPER

Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Acts 8:26-40

And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:



Acts 8:26-40

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”

Acts 8:26-40

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.



Characters

1. Ethiopian Eunuch: A “God Fearer”, would have been disqualified, willing to walk days to find the truth.

2. Philip: One of the original 12, from a devoutly orthodox village called Bethsaida, would have lived by 613 fences.....then he met Jésus.

Application

1. Jesus doesn't ask "are you worthy?"Jesus asks "are you thirsty?"
2. Sinning less vs loving more
3. Everything needs to be fixed vs. Nothing needs to be hidden

Fruit (despite the 613 fences)

1. 65 Percent of Ethiopia identifies as Christian.
2. Ethiopian Christians are indigenous.
3. The Ethiopian Church today traces their origins back to this eunuch.
4. An entire book about being surprised by how generous God is with people who are thirsty?..... Uncircumcised Gentiles being filled with the Spirit, normal people being used by God, Ethiopian eunuchs, etc...



John 7:37-39

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”



There was 613 fences in the Old Testament.

Philip ignores all the fences and just keeps talking about the well.

The overuse of fences is not necessary if there is a well stocked well.

In old communities, the whole village centered around the well.

Wells and thirst represent: life, provision, prosperity, and abundance.

Jesus was a fence destroyer and well inviter.

We don't need any fence that doesn't lead to the well.



LAST QUESTION

**Are we building higher fences
or deeper wells?**



