

Unstoppable

Stories from the Book of Acts

GOD'S UNSTOPPABLE CHURCH IS:

- **Spirit Empowered**
- **Courageous & Compassionate**
- **Holy**
- **A Faithful Witness**



GOD'S UNSTOPPABLE CHURCH IS RADICALLY INCLUSIVE



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**Not only are they welcomed in
but in fact, the Holy Spirit says
"Go to them!"**



**GOD'S UNSTOPPABLE CHURCH IS
RADICALLY INCLUSIVE
because the
GOSPEL IS RADICALLY INCLUSIVE!**



Acts 8: 1-3



Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. (Some devout men came and buried Stephen with great mourning.) But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



Luke 24:47 - It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.'

Matthew 28:19 - Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.



Acts 8:4-8



But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.

Acts 8:4-6

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God's heart is for the lost. The Holy Spirit sends us towards the people our prejudices have taught us to avoid.





“The world outside the gospel is not first a world possessed by Satan but a world loved by God.”

Willie James Jennings

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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."





Willie James Jennings

Roads are about survival, moving from one place to the next and searching for life possibilities or at least running from the forces of death. Luke has already shown us a God in Jesus who was comfortable with roads, whose feet touched the good earth, never searching for home or despising itinerancy, because his life redefined both home and away. This is a God who wills to be found on the road in order to transform it, collapsing near and far, domestic and foreign onto the body of the Son. There on the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza, from the near and known to the distant and unknown, Philip will again witness a God whose love expands over every road and transgresses every bordered identity.

Acts 8:27-28



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, and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Acts 8:29-31



The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.” Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

Acts 8:29-31



The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

Acts 8:32-35



The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.

**And as a lamb is silent before the shearers,
he did not open his mouth.**

He was humiliated and received no justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

Acts 8:32-35



The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?” So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.



“This Ethiopian eunuch is the outer boundary of the possibility of Jewish existence, and there at that border God will bring that difference near, very near, to the hearth of home in the Spirit.”

Willie James Jennings

Acts 8:32-35



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Acts 8:32-35



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***When the Church is radically attentive to the Spirit, He leads us to those on the margins, and we witness God at work.**

Isaiah 56:3-5

“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.’



Isaiah 56:3-5

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. 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!



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Acts 8:36-38



As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?” 38 He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

Acts 8:39-40



When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.

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