

# PART 12: HOW ORDINARY PEOPLE LIVE ON MISSION

## ACTS 8:26-40

Mike Taylor

[www.TaylorNotes.Info/monday](http://www.TaylorNotes.Info/monday)



### MAIN IDEA

This passage describes how God's saving grace spreads among the nations as Philip helps an Ethiopian man understand the good news about Jesus Christ from the Scriptures.

### I. LOVE PEOPLE WITH GOD-CENTERED, CHRISTLIKE LOVE (8:26-40)

A. God has given us two gifts:

1. The Bible.
2. People like yourself who can lovingly explain salvation to others of all ethnic groups.

Table 1: A comparison of Jonah and Philip in sharing the scriptures

	Jonah	Philip
Attitude toward other ethnic groups	Arrogant, despised Assyrians	Felt compassion for the Ethiopian <sup>1</sup>
Handling of the gospel	Withheld it at first	Shared it freely and clearly

- B. Point No. 1: Have Christ-like compassion on all people regardless of their ethnicity.

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Phil. 2:3-4 NIV)*

## II. YIELD DAILY TO THE SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE (8:26-31)

- A. To yield to the Holy Spirit's guidance means to yield to His control, we follow His lead, and we allow Him to exert His influence over us.
- B. To walk in the Spirit is the opposite of resisting Him or grieving Him (Ephesians 4:30).
1. A "walk" in the Bible is often a metaphor for practical daily living.
  2. To walk in the Spirit means that we yield to His control.
  3. We follow His lead, and we allow Him to exert His influence over us.
  4. To walk in the Spirit is the opposite of resisting Him or grieving Him (Ephesians 4:30).
  5. The Christian life is a journey, and we are to walk it—we are to make consistent forward progress.
- C. Look for opportunities to share the gospel with others as the Holy Spirit leads us.
1. A person in a crisis.
  2. A person who is very sick.
  3. A person who has questions about life in general.
- D. Point No. 2: Learn to listen to and follow the Holy Spirit 24 x 7.

## III. UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN THE GOOD NEWS TO PEOPLE (8:32-40)

- A. Be prepared to explain the good news.

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<sup>1</sup> Ethiopia was considered "the end of the earth" by the Greeks and Romans (Merida 123). See Acts 1:8.

1. Use the Four Spiritual Laws or the Romans Road to explain man's predicament because of sin and God's provision of grace.<sup>2</sup>
  2. But "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." (Col. 4:6 NIV)
- B. Consider using questions as you explain the good news.
1. "Have you ever read the Bible? If so, what did you think of it?"
  2. "What do you suppose happens to people after they die?"
  3. "Does your life have a purpose?"
  4. "Have you ever wondered why people exist?"
- C. Point No. 3: Expect God to work as you explain the good news to others.
1. Paul relied totally on God when he preached the gospel.
 

*"My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power" (1 Cor. 2:4-5 NIV).*
  2. God's power is behind us when we share the gospel with others.
 

*"But we have this treasure (the gospel) in jars of clay (that's us) to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." (2 Cor. 4:7 NIV).*

#### IV. APPLICATION

- A. **R** \_\_\_\_\_ God-ordained opportunities to share the gospel.
- B. **R** \_\_\_\_\_ how you will share the gospel.
- C. **R** \_\_\_\_\_ on the Holy Spirit's power when sharing the gospel.

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<sup>2</sup> See Acts Part 11.