**Going deeper in Acts 8:26-39**

**INTRODUCTION**

Persecution of the church has begun. The believers in Jerusalem have been scattered. The Spirit of God has been at work as they have scattered. One of the people that the Spirit has been using is the disciple Phillip. The following passage is one of the ways He uses Phillip.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

26 An angel of the Lord spoke to Phillip saying, “Get up and go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” 27 He got up and went. He met a man, an Ethiopian, a ruler, under Candace the Queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all of her treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and as he was returning to Ethiopia, he was sitting in his chariot reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 The Spirit told Phillip, “Go and come right up next to the chariot.” 30 Then Phillip ran up to the chariot and he could hear the man reading Isaiah the prophet. Phillip asked him, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 “How can I unless someone guides me?” He urged Phillip to come up and sit with him. 32 The passage of Scripture he was reading was, “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter. As a lamb is silent before the shearer and does not open his mouth. 33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” 34 The eunuch said, “Please tell me who the prophet is talking about, himself or someone else.” 35 Then Phillip began with that passage of Scripture and shared the good news of Jesus with him. 36 As they went down the road they came near some water and the eunuch asked, “What prevents me from being baptized?” 38 He commanded the chariot to be stopped and they both went down to the water and Phillip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Phillip away, so that the eunuch no longer saw him, but the eunuch continued on his way rejoicing.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What do you think it felt like for Phillip to run up to this stranger who was very different from him? What would it take for you to do that?

2. How is this man different from Phillip? Why do you think the Scripture points out the details of the differences between the two men?

3. How would you describe the character of the Ethiopian?

4. The passage the Ethiopian is reading is prophecy about Jesus from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. What does the passage emphasize about the Lord Jesus?

5. What is the eunuch’s response to the good news of Jesus in verse 36? Consistently throughout the New Testament the response to the Gospel is the choice to be baptized. Why do you think the New Testament considers it so important? Have you been baptized? If not why not?

6. What effect does the eunuch’s step of faith and baptism have on him? What do you think the Ethiopian did after this?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Give thanks for those who helped you put your faith in the Lord Jesus.

\*Give thanks for those in your journey of faith that have been different from you.

\*Ask the Spirit of God to give you the opportunity to share the good news this week.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Phillip is open to the Spirit of God’s leading even if it means stepping into a situation where he is uncomfortable and doesn’t know what will happen. That is the “normal” Christian life. Where is the Spirit calling you to step out in faith? Will you act on it and trust His leading?