

## Listening

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup> He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

*“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.*

*<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”*

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, 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 snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*No one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the Lord. —Deuteronomy 23: 1 NIV*

*... the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless?” —Genesis 15: 1–2*

## **Questions to Consider**

1. If you ever received an inheritance, who was it from? Do you have a will? When did (or when will) you make a will?
2. Leviticus 21 lists some qualifications of priests. Today we would make a distinction between the first group (vv. 1–15) and the second (vv. 16–24). (Hint: compare the first few words of vv. 4 and 18.) What is that distinction? How does Acts 8 help to establish that distinction?
3. How is Philip’s behavior “missional?” (See Acts 8: 1, 5, 14, 26.)
4. Read Isaiah 53, which the Ethiopian eunuch was reading. Why would he be reading that passage? How does your Bible translate verse 8?
5. How might the eunuch expect Philip to answer his question (v. 36)? Why? How does Philip’s action in v. 38 answer it?
6. How does Philip approach the eunuch (v. 29)? How does he begin the conversation (v. 30)? When does he bring up Jesus? Why?
7. What can we learn from the way Philip encounters the eunuch and then introduces him to Jesus? How can you apply those lessons?