

# Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 28 April 2024

## JOURNEYING ALONGSIDE OTHERS

### Opening Prayer (please pray together)

Gracious God, pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not destruction. Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

Welcome 🙏

**Q 1 Have you ever been on a big journey? Were you excited, scared, anxious?  
Please share your experience with one another.**

### Worship Suggestions

What a friend we have in Jesus

Be still and know

One more step along the World I go

### Word 📖 Psalm 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup> From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;  
before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

<sup>26</sup> The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him—  
may your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the  
nations will bow down before him,

<sup>28</sup> for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup> All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;  
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—  
those who cannot keep themselves alive.

<sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

<sup>31</sup> They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

### Word 📖 Acts 8:26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. <sup>31</sup> “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?  
For his life was taken from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” <sup>[37]</sup> <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both 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 suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

## **COMMENTARY**

God had a plan for Philip, he was to take "the desert road"; we must realise that from man's perspective his errand was foolish, yet it wise in God's perspective. What could be more foolish than to leave a place of prospering ministry and go to a road of a desert?

Philip encountered an Ethiopian who was a new believer in Judaism returning from Jerusalem, reading the Bible! Being an important official, the Ethiopian was undoubtedly a successful man. Yet his success didn't answer all the questions in his belief. He knew he needed some genuine, truthful, spiritual answers in his life, so he was seeking God.

Hungry for God's Word, the Ethiopian was reading aloud the Book of Isaiah the prophet. Typically, such a scroll of Scripture would have cost him a lot of money, so he clearly thought it was worth the investment and wanted to read it!

**Q 2 Philip was prompted by the Spirit to explain the gospel to the court official.**

**Have you ever been prompted by the spirit to share with someone?**

**Q 3 Have you ever encountered someone that has changed your life?**

**Q 4 To share the gospel means to often leave our comfort zones.**

**Many of us don't want to leave our comfort zones. Why do you think that is?**

## **Works**

Today and the rest of this week, we need to pray for each other for strength and love.

**Ending Prayer** (please pray together)

Gracious God, you gift us with your life through Christ, the true vine. May we, the branches of the vine, bring forth to the glory of your name the fruits of faith and love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Shalom**

**Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)**