Acts 8:26-40

“God is on the job, listen and go”

Introduction: Have you ever woken up Sunday morning ready to take on the day? You had a nice relaxing evening with you family Saturday night. You get ready and start heading out the door hoping that today is really as nice as the weather man said it would be, when you realize you don’t have your car keys. You may go to the spot or spots that you usually leave them, but when you realize they are not there a little bit of panic starts to set in. At that moment you are on a mission. There is something very important in your life that you are willing to go through dirty laundry and get on your hands and knees for, your precious keys. Many things more important than keys are worth searching for. God does not lose His keys, but he does seek after people. When Jesus was on this earth He said that He was about His Father’s business, which is why He was determined to seek and to save the lost. In today’s lesson we are going to look at God going after a man referred to as the Ethiopian eunuch.

1. The Ethiopian eunuch was a man who knew his need. v.31

A. When Philip approaches he hears the words of Isaiah 53:7-8. (The reading in the NT is different because of Greek grammar. This is a testament to the faithfulness that the KJV translators had to the Word of God as it was in front of them, they did not take the liberty to change what is recorded as newer translations do.) We do not know for sure to what degree the eunuch had been involved with Judaism, but it is likely he was a proselyte since he had made a trip to worship in Jerusalem. God had somehow planted the seed of his Word in this man's life. God was at work in Ethiopia developing a desire for God in this man.

B. People have an awareness of their need for God. Even though many suppress it, when people are honest with themselves they have to recognize that they are sinners. God has put in all of us a conscience that testifies of God's holy righteousness. It is possible to sear this conscience so that people can get to the point that they don't feel guilty for the things they do, but the truth of sin does not change. Everyone needs God, whether people see that need is something else. Within every man there is a "God shaped hole" that will be filled with nothing else; not entertainment, wealth, people, nothing.

C. People in El Paso need God. I believe that there are many people in this very city who at points in their lives cry out to God, not for salvation, but when they find the end of their strength and wisdom. The pleasures that this world has to offer are fun for a season but in the end they leave people empty and scarred. I am not talking about every person in El Paso, maybe not even a majority of people are this way, but there are individuals who get fed up with living a life of sin. These kinds of people are often visitors here at Hillcrest. Trouble with marriage, addictions, family, or even the law are driven to come to church, and they want to know about God.

**Transition**: One thing that is obvious in the passage was that this event had nothing to do with chance.

1. God had a desire for a harvest in the desert.

A. God sent an angel to His servant Philip to go to the place where God knew this man would be. At the end of the chapter Philip is nowhere to be found, God made a special appointment just for the Ethiopian eunuch. The sincerity and humility of this man are seen in verses 31, 34, and 36. He is not proud as the Pharisees were, he is honest about the help he needs to understand more about God so he asks for help.

B. God valued this individual so much that he gave special orders to help him. God may not direct us with angels, but He has given us the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20. He has given us clear directions about our purpose here in this world, we must be faithful to take the gospel wherever God may lead us.

1. God leads us through the Holy Spirit. This does not mean that we wait to hear voices in our head, it means that when we see someone at the store or at work we may feel an urge to talk to them about God or invite them to church. When God speaks it is not always loud, but it is always clear. We are not to walk about as if stumbling in the darkness because He guides us in the way.

2. God uses us in the lives of people we come in contact with. God may have put you in contact with someone who God wants to save. Are you ready to talk to them about God or invite them to church?

Transition: We have an important role in evangelism, but it is not the primary role, nor the most powerful.

1. God is intervening in the lives of men to draw them to Himself.

A. God had intervened many ways in the life of this Ethiopian.

1. He told Noah to build an ark

2. He set a bush on fire in the desert to catch Moses' attention

3. He told Moses to write His Word.

4. He told Solomon to build a temple so people could worship

5. He used Isaiah to write the passage this man read in the passage.

6. He used Philip to preach unto Him Jesus Christ.

B. People don't always realize it, but God has taken an active role in the lives of lost people. He is actively working in their lives so they will be saved.

1. Through His Word

2. Through the atoning death of Jesus

3. Trough the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-12)

4. Through people just like you and me, by putting us in contact with them.

**Transition**: Without God we have nothing to offer people, even our righteousness is as filthy rags unto the Lord. But because of all He has done we have good news to tell the world.

1. God wants you to bridge the gap.

A. Sin is a great rift between a Holy God and sinful people. Philip was a vitally important tool in the hand of God and connected this man with his Creator.

B. The impact of Philip's obedience was immediate and outwardly evidenced.

1. Baptism is a way that God has made for an individual to publicly identify with Christ. This is something that should be done with joy and rejoicing by the individual and by God's people.

2. In verse 39 we see that the Ethiopian eunuch went on his way rejoicing. Love is an undeniably powerful force in this world. When someone comes to an understanding of and embraces the love of God for sinful man it ought to be a great cause for rejoicing in our lives.

C. Our role in God's plan is vitally important. It is not a difficult role, but too many people are intimidated by the thought of talking about their faith. We are not responsible for saving them, we just need to help them understand that Jesus is the only way.

**Conclusion**: It is great that God wants to reach the whole world! But I cannot reach the whole world, nor could Philip, nor can you. The task of evangelism is not so great that you cannot involve yourself in it. People all around us desperately need to hear about Jesus. Remember that God is already working in their lives, He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance! Not everybody is going to believe the gospel, but there are some people out there who are ready for harvest. Will you be willing this week to take an invitation to someone? Will you be willing to come out on visitation Saturday at 9:45 or Tuesday at 6:30pm so you can spend some time learning to share the gospel? Will you pray for God to guide you to a person who desires to know about God? You are a vital bridge that can connect a precious soul to their creator.

Christian maybe it has been a while since you meditated upon all the ways in which God intervened in your life to bring you here this morning. Thank God for all that He has done in your life today.