

Series: Who's Your One?

Sermon: Surprise Encounters

Passage: Acts 8:4-8; 26-40

Illustration:

Need: When we become active in sharing the gospel, God will open seemingly random doors for us to share Christ.

I. Philip's surprise encounter

- "scattered" - due to persecution in Jerusalem at the hands of the hitman Saul (8:1-3).
- "Philip" = Not one of the 12 apostles. A Grecian Jew, one of the 7 deacons chosen in Acts 6:5.
- Philip was being obedient (1:8) sharing the gospel in Samaria, many were believing and being baptized.
- God led Philip to leave a successful ministry and go to an obscure location without much detail.
- God prepared a divine encounter for Philip to meet an unusual god-fearing Gentile who was a dignitary from the "ends of the earth."
- Philip obediently engages this important official and tells him about Jesus, the crucified & risen Messiah.
- This Gentile believes and submits to Christian baptism. (the first Gentile conversion in the book of Acts)
- God is fulfilling what Jesus promised in (1:8) - Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, ends of the earth.

II. Application Point #1: God uses those who are already being obedient.

- Are you currently engaged in the promotion of the gospel? Are you prayerfully pursuing at least "one?"
- Is your own life consistent with the gospel that you would be sharing?

III. Application Point #2: God orchestrates divine encounters that may appear strange or random.

- Pay close attention to those you encounter on a daily basis.
- Pay especially close attention to those encounters that make no sense.

IV. Application Point #3: There's no way around engagement with others.

- You will have to speak. God will give you courage.
- You will need to listen. Listen for the open door.

V. Application Point #4: Every situation (especially personal crisis) can be leveraged towards Jesus.

- You will need to be ready with THE Gospel. (see last week)
- 1 Peter 3:15 - "always prepared" 2 Tim. 4:2 - "in season & out of season"

VI. Be Alert & Ready to Share!