

# The Mission Heart of God

Acts 8:25-40 (Romans 10:13-17; Eph. 2:1-5)

**What about those who have never heard the Gospel? Can they still be saved?**

We want to explore this morning the mission heart of God; how does God save people, & what about those who never hear the gospel of Jesus Christ? What happens to them?

**COIN: Equal worth with two sides: Same coin, worth, but two perspectives (God's/Man's)**

-We saw in Gen. 12 – That God would bless all the nations of the earth (Jesus) through Abram's obedience to trust God and follow the Lord to where He led him. God blessed Obedience

-We saw in Jonah that God had a heart to redeem the most wicked, vile, and violent people in the Ninevites. God displayed His mercy upon the least worthy of peoples. (Jonah 2:4)

**A. God wants to bring the gospel (good news of salvation) to all peoples on the earth**

1 Timothy 2:4 "God our Savior who wants **all people** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." Rev. 5:9 "Jesus purchased people for God with your blood from **every tribe, lang., people, and nation.**"

Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the **whole world** as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

**B. God wants to use His disciples (the Church) YOU to bring that message of the gospel**

Acts 1:8 "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth." -Matthew 28:18 "As you go, Make Disciples of all nations"

**C. There is no other way for anyone to be saved** (spiritually rescued) **except by Jesus**, through a saving faith relationship with Jesus. (**Not good works; not being baptized; not going to church; not loving God; not being religious; not with great sincerity toward a spirituality; not for Buddhists, Hinduism; Islam; Judaism; or any "ism"**)

Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved."

John 14:6 "Jesus \*said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me."

1 John 5:12 "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

\*Are you saying that Jews are not saved? Faithful Muslims?

1 John 2:23 "Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also." (Jehovah's Witnesses)

Salvation is **exclusive** – it's ONLY through Jesus Christ. **This is offensive to rest of the world**

Salvation is **inclusive** – Jesus died so that ALL the world could be saved through Him alone

1 John 2:2 "and He Himself is the <sup>[a]</sup>propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world.*" Anyone in the world can be saved by Christ. **Common grace**

\*So, how will all the world hear about the gospel so as to be saved? **US!!!!** This is God's plan.

-What about those who have never heard the gospel? Far remote places? How will they be saved?

**READ Acts 8:25-40** "So, when they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans. <sup>26</sup> But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Get ready and go south to

the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert *road*.)<sup>27</sup> So he got ready and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship,<sup>28</sup> and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading Isaiah the prophet.<sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.”<sup>30</sup> Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”<sup>31</sup> And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.<sup>32</sup> Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: “He was led like a sheep to slaughter; And like a lamb that is silent before its shearer, So He does not open His mouth.<sup>33</sup> In humiliation His justice was taken away; Who will [u]describe His [u]generation? For His life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please *tell me*, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself, or of someone else?”<sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.<sup>36</sup> As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch \*said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”<sup>[u]</sup><sup>38</sup> And he ordered that the chariot stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.<sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, [u]but went on his way rejoicing.<sup>40</sup> But Philip [u]found himself at Azotus [Gaza] and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities, until he came to Caesarea.” Philip listened to Angel/Spirit

**A.** From a human perspective, Ethiopian Eunuch was a **seeker**. He was in Jerusalem to learn and to worship God. His heart was sensitive to God and He wanted to understand truth/O.T.

\*[he seems to be a ‘good’ person; religious; sincere; devout; reading OT/Bible = **LOST**]

**B.** It was God’s **desire**, out of the kindness of God’s mercy to extend salvation to him

**C.** Because salvation is **ONLY** through a saving faith relationship with Jesus Christ, God *supernaturally* brought a **witness** to him – to share with him the gospel. (Angel to Philip/Spirit)

**D.** Philip was sensitive to the **Holy Spirit** and when He called him to go share, Philip was ready, willing, and available as a **tool** in God’s hand to give the gospel away. \*\*\*\***Spirit’s work in salv:**

Spirt prompted Philip to share; Sp. prepared Eunuch; Sp. used Scripture to bring truth; Sp. helped Philip proclaim gospel truth; Sp. produced salvation-regenerated Eunuch’s heart; Sp. prompted obedience in baptism

**E.** God made a way for a lost man (seeker) to hear & **respond** to the gospel thru a faithful **disciple**. **A disciple is someone who is following/being changed by/continues mission of Jesus**

**What about those who have never heard the gospel? Are they responsible for own salv?**

=**There is NO plan B.**=Jesus!! \*\***The lost can only hear the gospel if someone will go & share it!**

**-Those around the world (remotest areas) will die & go to a godless eternity/hell unless they hear and respond to the gospel by saving faith. There is NO other way.**

**READ Romans 10:13-17** “For Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

<sup>14</sup> How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who [u]bring good news of good things!” <sup>16</sup> However, they did not all heed the [u]good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” <sup>17</sup> So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word [u]of Christ.”

The Bible is full of Two-fold perspective: Man coming to God & God saving them by grace/faith **i.e. John 6**      \*\***From a human perspective** (finite, limited, and flawed)

1. **God never denies any who desire to be saved.** i.e. "I really want God to save me...God = NO"  
-**IF** you understand that salvation means complete surrender to Jesus as Lord; accepting His substitutionary death on the cross as the perfect act of atonement for my sin; for all sin – and that YOU cannot earn salvation; you do not deserve salvation; & salv. Is **NOT** on your terms:  
-However, **from God's perspective:** Romans 3:10-11 "There is no righteous person, not even one;<sup>11</sup> There is no one who understands, **There is no one who seeks out God;** <sup>12</sup> They have all turned aside, together they have become <sup>l</sup>corrupt; There is no one who does good, There is not even one." \*- Jer. 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else; desperately sick"

2. **God never forces any to be saved who desire to reject Him; hell exists as God's ultimate act of love toward those who want a godless eternity** – those whose hearts are already bent to reject & rebel against God forever; those who want to be the god of their own lives.  
\*God does not **violate** our wills to force us to believe; or drag us kicking/screaming to salv.

3. **God always initiates salvation** – not man. Because man is spiritually dead, he cannot choose God; cannot choose salvation; cannot even rightly respond to God. **Faith is God's gift!!**  
Ephesians 2:1-5 "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2**in which you used to walk when you conformed to the ways of this world and of the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit who is now at work in the sons of disobedience. **3**All of us also lived among them at one time, fulfilling the cravings of our flesh and indulging its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature children of wrath. But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5**made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved!"

Hebrews 12:2 "God is the Author (originator) and Perfecter of our faith" = God is worthy of all praise for His mercy, His choosing of us, His sending His Son to redeem us, for rescuing us

## **APPLICATION**

-Because God went to extraordinary, supernatural measures to save Ethiopian Eunuch, what do we learn about God's heart? Rescuing heart, Relational heart, Missional heart.  
-If we want to be a part of God's missional purpose on earth (adventure), we have to be ready, willing, and ready as a useable tool in God's hand to give gospel away.  
-What in your life have you said NO to God about? What do you need to release in your life, your pride, your limited knowledge -to be useable? Unconfessed sin? Blocking U?  
-Who is missing a chance to hear the gospel & be saved because you are unwilling to share?

**Story of salvation – God making a way**