

World Upside Down: The Book of Acts

Acts 8:9-40

1. Which of these is your favorite holiday? [POLL]

2. Amazing grace is greater than amazing magic (vv. 9-13).

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

- Matthew 7:28-29

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

- 1 Corinthians 1:18-21

3. The gift of God cannot be bought (vv. 14-25).

Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

- Isaiah 55:1-2

The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 6:23

4. Philip finds himself evangelizing “the ends of the earth” (vv. 26-28).

Nobles shall come from Egypt; Cush shall hasten to stretch out her hands to God.

- Psalm 68.31

From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering.

- Zephaniah 3:10

“Poseidon had gone to visit the Ethiopians worlds away, Ethiopians off at the farthest limits of mankind.”

- *The Odyssey* 1.23

5. For the fullness of faith, we need guides (vv. 29-31).

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

- John 16:13

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

- Romans 10:14-15

6. Philip reads backwards from Isaiah 53 (vv. 32-35).

But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
- Isaiah 53:5-6

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
- Luke 24:27

Possible answers to the Ethiopian's question:

- i) Isaiah
- ii) Israel
- iii) Messiah

7. Baptism is part and parcel of the good news (vv. 36-40).

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- Acts 2:38

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- Galatians 3:27-28

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 1 Peter 3:21

8. The story of Philip & the Ethiopian shows great lessons in witnessing.

- 1) Keep your eyes open to the Spirit's leading
- 2) Open with questions, not answers
- 3) Begin from where they are
- 4) Lead them to the waters
- 5) The Lord does the work—we get to participate