

# UNSTOPPABLE

ACTS: THE MISSION OF JESUS THROUGH HIS CHURCH

UNSTOPPABLE "Grace" - Rev. Jeremy Bates

Sermon Notes: March 15, 2026

Text: Acts 8

You never know how far the ripple will go when ordinary people take a step of obedience and faith. In this message from Acts 8, we look at the incredible story of Philip and the Ethiopian official—a powerful reminder that God uses everyday believers to reach people who feel like spiritual outsiders, inviting them to become Kingdom insiders.

**“And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere -  
in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

*“All of God’s people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose He has given them.” - Oswald Chambers*

*“Persecution does to the church what wind does to seed, it scatters it and produces a greater harvest.” Warren Wiersbe*

The mandate of the church, since its inception, the mission of Jesus has been to extend the invitation for spiritual OUTSIDERS to become Kingdom INSIDERS

Acts 8 represents the breaking down of barriers, biases, prejudices for the sake of sharing the Good News of Jesus!

Philip, the “Bridge Builder” - from administration and support to “the Evangelist” Acts 6:1 & 21:8

One of the greatest mistakes the church can make is to “professionalize” the ministry. Eph. 4:12

*“Effective evangelism becomes possible only when the church recovers both the Biblical Gospel and a joyful confidence in its truth, relevance and power.” John Stott, The Message of Acts*

The Eunuch presented the ultimate outsider: prevented from fulling worshipping in the temple, a non-jew, a foreigner, and castrated male.

**To invite SPIRITUAL OUTSIDERS TO BECOME KINGDOM INSIDERS,  
JUST KEEP TAKING YOUR NEXT STEP:**

**STEP 1: LISTEN & RESPOND TO GOD’S PROMPTINGS - v26,27**

**STEP 2: COME ALONG SIDE - v29**

**STEP 3: LISTEN FIRST - v30**

**STEP 4: TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO ASK QUESTIONS - v30**

**STEP 5: SIT WITH THEM - v31**

**STEP 6: TELL THEM THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS - v35**

**TAKING YOUR NEXT STEP ENABLES OTHERS TO TAKE THEIR FIRST STEP**



# Life Group Discussion

## Warm-Up:

When was the last time you remember feeling like you were out of your league, on the outside looking in, like an “outsider” (new job, school, social setting, etc.)? What made it uncomfortable and what, if anything, helped you eventually feel included?

## Study & Discussion:

### Read Acts 8

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

2) In Acts 8, persecution scattered the church, but the gospel spread even more. Why do you think difficult circumstances often end up advancing God’s mission instead of stopping it?

3) Philip crossed cultural and social barriers to share the good news with Samaritans and the Ethiopian official. What kinds of barriers or prejudices still make it difficult for Christians today to reach certain people?

4) Philip responded quickly when God directed him to go to the desert road (Acts 8:26–27). Can you think of a time when you sensed God nudging you to do something? What happened when you responded - or didn’t?

5) Philip didn’t start with a sermon—he asked a question: “Do you understand what you’re reading?” What are some simple ways we could start spiritual conversations with people in our everyday lives?

6) The big idea of the message was: “Taking your next step can help someone else take their first step.” What might a “next step” look like in your life right now when it comes to helping someone move closer to Jesus?

**Prayer:** Invite the group to silently think of one person who may feel like a spiritual outsider, then pray that God would give opportunities, courage, and sensitivity to walk alongside them.

