

Philip and the Ethiopian

Doing new things

Introduce Philip - 'Philip the evangelist' and 'one of the 7' (Acts 21:8). Read or summarise Acts 6:1-7 re his being chosen as an organiser of food for widows. And then look at what he ended up doing when the 'great persecution' broke out (Acts 8:1 and 4). Discuss!

What led to the change in Philip?

How was he able to change?

Are we equipped to do new things like that? (maybe think about our character / personality / abilities / training, and compare that with the idea of being 'able to do all things through Christ who strengthens me' (Philippians 4:13)).

What is God stirring in you? Pray for each other...

New opportunities

The new Christians were scattered from Jerusalem, having been all together there being formed into the new church (and prepared by God for the scattering, though they didn't realise it at the time (discuss?)).

Mike suggested we are like that - gathered on Sundays and when we meet at home group etc, and scattered during the week at work, in the towns we live in, at college, and even far away at university maybe.

Does it feel like we are scattered?

What does it feel like to be scattered?

What are the things people don't like about being 'scattered'? What are the opportunities?

Pray for each other ...

What happens to new Christians?

Read Acts 8:26-40. Chat through people's reactions to it.

Philip was listening, available and obedient to the Spirit, despite it being quite a trek to meet up with the Ethiopian, and he would have been leaving an amazing mission field. But he did it.

And then he was whisked away! Really!? Discuss.

Because he was whisked away, he couldn't nurture and disciple the Ethiopian. What maybe happened to the guy after a few weeks, after the initial joy wore off? What did he need, from day 1?

How does this relate to us?

We have prayed as a church, and believe, that God is going to bring more new Christians to us at Jubilee. They will need looking after and discipling. point people to the discipleship page on the Jubilee website. Challenge them to be ready to help nurture new believers, and be quick to talk to people they don't know they see at church.

Pray for a rise in faith to do this, and for God's favour in bringing new people to us.

God bless you all as you meet.

Mike

Home Group Notes from talk by Mike Gilson, Jubilee, Sun 4 March 2018