

successfully persuade someone to embrace Christ without God working behind the scenes in their life?

Sermon Notes

“Divine Appointments”

Acts 8:26-40

December 9, 2018

- b. Do you know someone who is “spiritually curious” but “scripturally confused”? Someone who has shown interest in God, but still is not sure what to think of Jesus or the church?

- c. What would be an appropriate prayer to express your ultimate dependence upon God for their salvation, yet recognize God’s desire to work through ordinary people like Philip (and you) to tell “the good news about Jesus”?

- d. How ready are you to explain the Scriptures and share the good news of Jesus? What could you do to further prepare for this?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Walfre Estrada, Vida y Esperanza - Guatemala

Pray for the financial needs of the school, Vida y Esperanza, that the Lord will provide in such a way that they can offer the best opportunities for the students.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 12-09-18

Getting Started:

1. In what ways could you learn about a secret that was hidden from you?

Digging Deeper:

When we first meet the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:27, he has already travelled hundreds of miles to worship the One True God, and is searching in the Scriptures for a greater understanding. Let's look behind the scenes to see what the Bible says God must do to bring someone to this state of curiosity and searching interest.

2. Read Ephesians 2:1-7, 12.

- a. How does Paul describe our default condition without Christ (Eph. 2:1-3, 12)?

- b. Does this sound like a condition from which we can rescue ourselves?

- c. Who does Paul credit with initiating the action that leads to our salvation (Eph. 2:4-7)?

- d. How does this correlate to Jesus' teaching in John 6:44?

3. Read Luke 10:21-24

- a. What did Jesus rejoice over (Luke 10:21)? Take note that the Father is also pleased with this same thing.

- b. What are "these things" (10:21) that are hidden from some and revealed to others? Consider the greater context and the message the seventy-two were sent to proclaim (10:9). But also consider the nearer context of what is "concealed and revealed" in Luke 10:22.

- c. Apparently "these things" were "revealed" to "his disciples" based on what they had seen and heard (Luke 10:23-24). How does this help us identify who the "little children" (10:21) are to whom "these things" are revealed? Are the "little children" literally infants, or a certain type of adult? (Compare Matthew 18:2-5.)

- d. For further thought and discussion: Why do you suppose that Jesus and the Father are pleased to conceal these things from the worldly "wise and learned" and reveal them to those deemed "little children"? (1 Corinthians 1:18-31 may shed some light on this.)

4. Let's think about some of the practical applications from this.

- a. If the initial default condition of all mankind requires God's initiative in order for us to be rescued, what implications does that have for evangelism? Can you