

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

May 2, 2021 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

“Philip...told him the good news about Jesus.”

- Acts 8:35 -

The good news of the resurrection, that God defeated death, sin, and the devil by raising the crucified Jesus from the dead, leaps over all boundaries and overcomes all obstacles. Nothing can prevent the love of Jesus Christ for us from calling all to himself. Baptism is a tangible and visible activity of the Holy Spirit in the relentless reach of God’s salvation for the world.

One might think that it would be enough for the crucified Jesus to rise from the dead and then return to his fearful disciples and show himself to them. In that way their faith could be confirmed in him and see tangible proof that he is indeed the Son of God. Sorry, but that is not the case, it is not the end of the story, it is merely the beginning. Jesus, not only defeats death, but he immediately moves into the whole world. And not only that, Jesus enlists and commissions his disciples (and us too!) to move into the world in his name.

By the work of the Holy Spirit, somebody has to say something. Somebody has to preach and somebody has to explain the scriptures (vs. 30-31) to those who have not yet heard the good news. There are those, like the eunuch, that need to hear about the Holy Spirit breaking into the world, reaching out and embracing those who have not yet heard the truth of who God is and what God is up to in the world.

Tradition has said that the eunuch went back home and founded the church of Ethiopia. This church has endured centuries of persecution and is still spreading the good news of Jesus into the world.

What if Philip had stayed home instead of going into the desert? What if you stay home? Who will go and tell?

Let us pray: *O God, we give you thanks not only for baptism, but for the Holy Spirit. We ask that your Spirit would shake us up and move us out from the confines of the church building. Nothing holds your Spirit back; let nothing hold us back. Bring to our limited minds awareness of all those who are in need of hearing the good news of your love for them. Help us to become engaged in your mission so that your will is done and your name may be known throughout the world. Amen.*

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