**Unstoppable - wk 13 - One For the Road**

**Acts is Jesus: The Sequel. Luke Vol 2 – The “what now?”**

**Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

**They experienced supernatural growth and intense persecution. Yet they are unstoppable.**

**The more it is attacked the more it flourishes.**

**Last week (Acts 8:1-25) a deacon turned evangelist, Phillip, is preaching and God is changing lives! God saving unexpected people.**

**GUESS WHO COMING TO DINNER? God's Surprise Guest List**

**5 people you might not invite – Jesus says come! Today only 1**

**1. Samaritans – Lost causes - people you avoid at all cost**

**Samaritans were cut off. Problems racially, beliefs, view of God and traditions. But God says there are no lost causes – come.**

**2. Simon - local drug dealer / cult leader - The victimizer.**

**Those deceiving, using and abusing people.**

**The dealer on the corner - God says - they are invited.**

**3rd guest –** **Acts 8:26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road - the desert road - that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (Nowhere near him, 2-day way walk – map) 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian (African) eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). (The queen's treasurer)**

**What is a Eunuch? Castrated male - often royalty servants were, so they would not mingle with women – heavy physical and psychological damage. (Jesus mentions in Matt 19:12)**

**27b This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot (Traveling in royal style) reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. (Wealthy, powerful, entitled, sexually abused, but yet hungry for God.) 29 The Spirit (of God) told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” (eavesdrop a little - God was setting up an appointment)**

**God's Surprise Guest List**

**3. Eunuch from Ethiopia – abused, confused – and counted out**

**A person gender altered - According to Jewish law (Deut 23:1) could never be right with God. They were too far gone.**

**The mission of Jesus includes the isolated and marginalized.**

**God is inviting that person to the kingdom – and still is.**

**Only then will they ever know who they truly are.**

**30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot (Late v38, we learn it was moving. I love Philips intentional actions) and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. (Runs behind this pimped out chariot - hears him reading out loud.)**

**“Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. (Good to read it, but understanding only come by the Spirit of God. Many read and don’t understand) 31 “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” (Never feel bad about asking for help in understanding the Bible – it can be hard) So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. (Jumps on back of the chariot with him)**

**32 This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” (Isaiah 53) 34 The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” (Some thought the suffering servant was Israel, some Isaiah, some thought it was a future Messiah.)**

**Isaiah 53 – is one of the all-time greatest OT chapters on Jesus**

**35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. (Jesus is that person)**

**Using Isaiah 53 he preaches Jesus. The Lamb is the Messiah – unjustly condemned though providentially lead to a cross. He was crucified for our sake.**

**The Gospel According to Isaiah What were they reading together?**

**(What they talked about) Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**

**Jesus is God!**

**Arm of the LORD - strong, powerful, and mighty. This Messiah is the very hand and power of God. \* Isaiah 53 Interchanges God’s name LORD with the suffering messiah.**

**2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. (Root of Jesse – Nazareth = branch – raised in the dry ground of Galilee) He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.**

**Jesus is humble**

**Born and raised in simplicity. Nothing stood out - looks or stature. Did not promote himself. Was not arrogant and showy.**

**3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. (Reference to Jesus’ passion for humanity) Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.**

**Jesus is rejected**

**Though worthy of all honor he did not and does not get it.**

**Very ones he created and loves, despise him – and still do.**

**4 Surely he took up our pain and bore (endured) our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced (lit. pierced thru – hundreds of yrs before crucifixion invented. Why did this happen??) for our transgressions, (our rebellious break of trust) he was crushed for our iniquities; (our crooks twisted ways) the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. (Spiritual sickness – sin. *1 Peter 2:24-25)***

**Jesus carried our sin - and the results of it**

**He took our sin, sickness, sorrow, and strife - as his own. Crucified and carried it. Guaranteed full future healing.**

**Toss your cares upon Jesus! He carried them.**

**6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; (this is our need for help) and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

**Jesus carried our judgment**

**We are all rebel sinners, wandering from God – worthy of punishment. But Jesus took our chastisement and penalty.**

**The consequences of our crookedness is upon him!**

**Jesus was our substitute – the wrath satisfier! (Rom 5:8-9)**

**The LORD God laid it on him.**

**God’s doing – not an attempt by Satan to stop him.**

**7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; (put to death, cut off from life. Why?) for the transgression (rebellious actions) of my people he was punished.**

**Jesus died like a slaughtered Lamb**

**Without protest and fighting - was not angry and defensive. Fully in control - was silent and humble before his accusers.**

**Yielding his life for our sake. Jesus took our punishment**

**9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, (died like a criminal between the guilty) and with the rich in his death, (Buried in a rich man’s tomb – Joseph of Arimathea) though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.**

**Jesus was physically buried**

**No mistake - his physical life was gone – he was killed and buried just Isaiah foretold 700 years before Jesus.**

**9b though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. (With all this suffering, Jesus remains the Holy one – without sin.)**

**Jesus was the only truly innocent perfect person to ever live.**

**How could this happen – How can this be fair??**

**10 Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, (KJV – it pleased the LORD. Again, this is the LORD’s will and doing) and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, (his death was God’s offering - God’s sacrifice to himself. Heb 6 - God vowed to himself - the only one who can keep it perfectly) he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. (HOW?? He is dead??) 11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.**

**Jesus rose from the dead!**

**He is alive! And - He sees and knows his spiritual offspring!**

**This is why it pleased the LORD to bruise him for many will be declared righteous! Many will be acquitted of their sin!**

**2 Cor 5:19 - God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.**

**12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, (the strong are the redeemed – co-heirs in Christ)**

**Jesus is that Messiah – given the name above all names!**

**The Father bestowed on Jesus the greatest name.**

**Philippians 2:10-11 That** **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**12b …because he poured out his life unto death and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors. (He stands between the Father’s judgement and their actions)**

**Jesus invites the transgressor – to come.**

**This was the message Philip gave the Eunuch from Isaiah 53**

**This is yours if you want it. Do you Believe this?**

**(He did believe it) Acts 8:36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” *[37] “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”* 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. (The Ethiopian - responded to the gospel with faith and baptism.) 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.**

**God had him walk 2 days there only to miraculously take him away. Philip obeyed - Eunuch believed - Phillip raptured away.**

**40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, (20 miles away) and as he passed through, he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. (60 mile stretch of land – preached up the coast)**

**Twenty yrs later, Philip is mentioned again, still in Caesarea (Acts 21:8–9)**

**Says he is living, married, and had 4 young daughters serving the Lord.**

**What happened to the Ethiopian man - Within his lifetime (1st century) there was a great church in Ethiopia – scholars, traditional history, and people in Ethiopia say it was started by this man.**

**Three ingredients to this story**

**1. The Spirit of God**

**We see again and again the Spirit leading, speaking, guiding, working in the life of Philip and the Ethiopian.**

**2. The Word of God**

**It was the word that was working in the Ethiopian and it was the Word of God that Philip taught that convicted and revealed the truth of Jesus. The core message is the cross of Jesus!!**

**3. A Willing Messenger**

**God sent him to a desert road – out of his comfort zone and convenience. We must follow God one step at a time. We don’t always know where God is leading us – we faith by faith.**

* **Looking for and ready for open doors.**
* **Obeyed and followed the Lord’s instructions**

**He did not know why, he just obeyed. 2 day walk for what??**

**It was his obedience to the HS led to the man’s salvation.**

* **Walk along side and wait**

**He listened and waited for the Lord’s prompt. He did not push his way in a conversation. Waited for the invite to sit with him.**

* **Started where the person was at**

**His location - in their spiritual journey. That is always a good place to start. Where are they spiritual? Start where they are.**

* **Knew the gospel and how to share it**

**Simply share with others what Jesus did and offer it. This is something every Christian can grow in.**

**A Couple of Final Thoughts**

* **The mission will often lead us to unexpected, wonderful places**
* **God is not done with you.**

**The gender confused, the abused, the discarded – the rebels and so-called hopeless causes, you think you’ve gone too far – or too messed up... God says – you’re invited - I want you.**

**The scriptures may not be clear to you now – but God is inviting you to come – only then will your eyes opened and know who you are meant and created to be in Him.**