

Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>,

Acts 8:26-40- <sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea."

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another series of devotionals. I hope and pray that this series has helped you gain a new

or fresh understanding of generosity and the way that God uses it to change our lives. In our last scripture passage about the power of the runway, we turn to Philip, an early leader in the Christian church. Where Zacchaeus chose his runway, Esther was forced into hers, with Philip, God just puts him right on the runway and takes him off when liftoff occurs. God sends an Angel to instruct Philip on where he needs to be, so that he can meet the Eunuch of the Ethiopian Queen, which in turn will lead to the spread of Christianity into Africa for the very first time. God knew where the runway was and knew where Philip needed to be, and Philip was obedient. Oftentimes we hear the call of God to be generous, to offer our time and resources, but we struggle to answer positively. Let us take a lesson from Philip and be willing to say “Yes” when God calls and be ready to take off when the runway presents itself.

I also love that no sooner had the mission to evangelize been accomplished, God snatched Philip up, and placed him down in a new location miles away. God needed Philip there for that exact purpose, and then needed him elsewhere. Wouldn't it be cool if God just dropped you down exactly where you were needed to do the good work of the Kingdom? What would happen if you assumed that God had already done that, and your day-to-day life was the place God needed you to be? You are on your runway right now, so friends, put your chair in its upright position, your tray table in the locked position, and get your heart ready for sacrificial generosity and join me as we prepare for takeoff.