

SUNDAY RECAP | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

RECAP FOR: SUNDAY MARCH 25, 2018

Lent Devotionals:

[Redeemer Presbyterian Lenten Devotional](#) (can import to your ical calendar)

[Living Through Dying: 6-week Community Guide Through Lent](#) by Saturate

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY

// Call to Worship //

L: As we are called into worship today,

it is sobering to remember

that when God appeared on earth in the person of Jesus, most of the world did not recognize him and therefore did not worship him.

Today we ask for faith that will open our eyes

to see Jesus for who he is,

that we might worship him in truth.

People of God, behold and see your God!

C: We open our eyes to see his glory.

We open our ears to hear his wisdom.

We open our hands to offer him gifts.

We open our mouths to sing his praise.

We open our hearts to offer him our love. He is Lord!

[Your Love Never Fails](#)

[Rock of Ages](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: Loving God, you rode a donkey and came in peace,

humbled yourself and gave yourself for us.

C: We confess our lack of humility.

L: As you entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted "Hosanna: 'Save us now!'"

On Good Friday they shouted "Crucify!"

C: We confess our praise is often empty. We sing "Hosanna," but cry "Crucify."

L: As the crowd laid their palms in front of you, you took no glory for yourself.

C: We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way. We do not stay true to your will.

Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of obedience. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- Isaiah 55:6–7

L: In Christ, God answers us and sets us free!
C: In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

[Satisfied](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

But now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought near to him because of the blood of Christ. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us. Together as one body, Christ reconciled us to God by means of his death, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. - Ephesians 2:13, 14b, & 16

Sermon: [Good News for the Outcast, Acts 8:26-40](#)

[Good Good Father](#)

// Benediction //

L: May God fill your heart with such love for Him that you find yourself telling others of how amazing Jesus is. For He has lived for you, He has died for you, and He has raised to new life for you. Go now in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Peace be with you!

C: And Also with you!

Scripture to Meditate On:

Acts 8:39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

Reflection Questions:

- In our Prayer of Confession we reflected on Palm Sunday and stated: We confess our praise is often empty. We sing “Hosanna,” but cry “Crucify.” Consider how that is a reality for you personally. In your life, where do you see a discrepancy like worshipping Jesus one moment and rejecting him the next? Take a few moments to repent of that hypocrisy and rejection of Jesus. Ask God to fill your heart with faith and devotion to Christ.
- What condemnation do you often hear in your head about the type of sinner you are and why God wouldn’t accept someone like you?
- Who are the people you judge as being “too bad to save” (even though you may never say that out loud)?
- Why is it important to see that God is drawing different types of people to the gospel? What does that mean for our church? What does that mean for our mission to share the gospel with our neighbors?

[Heidelberg Catechism](#)

Question 29- Why is the Son of God called “Jesus,” meaning “savior”?

A. Because he saves us from our sins, and because salvation should not be sought and cannot be found in anyone else.

Question 30- Do those who look for their salvation in saints, in themselves, or elsewhere really believe in the only savior Jesus?

A. No. Although they boast of being his, by their actions they deny the only savior, Jesus. Either Jesus is not a perfect savior, or those who in true faith accept this savior have in him all they need for their salvation.

Suggested Resources

Articles: [Why Your Morality Will Never Be Good Enough](#) by Silverio Gonzalez

[Judgment Day](#) by Kathy Strauch

[Why Does Anyone Become a Christian?](#) By Tim Keller

[God Commands the Impossible and That's Good](#) by Donavon Riley

Video: [Why Do We Need to Keep Hearing the Gospel?](#) Chad Bird

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents)

Article: [“My Boring Testimony”](#) by Jay Sawrie

[New City Catechism - Question 1](#)

Q: What is our only hope in life and death?

A: That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

[New City Catechism Question 6](#)

Q: How can we glorify God?

A: We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law.

Questions to ask your children

- Is there anyone who is too bad for Jesus to accept? Why or why not?
- What does it mean when we say, “I am a sinner”?
- In church this week the sermon was about an Ethiopian man who had made choices that he thought would make him happy, but really made him feeling lonely and sad. He wished he could go back and change that decision. Have you ever done anything like that? About what? Do you think Jesus still loves you even though you aren't perfect? Why?

Prayer to pray with children: *“Father God, thank you for sending Jesus to save us. Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross so that we could have ALL of our sins forgiven. Give us faith to believe, remind us of how much you love us, and make us really happy that Jesus saved us! Thanks Jesus, we love you. Amen”*

Sermon Review

Title: Good News for Outcast

Text: Acts 8:26-42

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/good-news-for-the-outcast/>

Podcast: <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

Sermon Overview:

Sermon Summary: Gospel Joy is birthed when outcasts find an identity that is better than family

As the sermon summary states, this week we were really focussed on looking at how an outcast like a eunuch was welcomed into God's family through the message of the gospel. Apparently the gospel is no respecter of persons! We are beginning to see a wide range of people be converted and come to faith in Christ. Specifically here in Acts 8:26-40 we see the gospel not respecting cultural heritage, differences, cleanliness or uncleanness, and social status. Let's consider each of those briefly.

Cultural Heritage- We are seeing in Acts that the gospel is multicultural. We have seen Jews come to faith in Christ. We have seen a Samaritan respond to the gospel. And now a black African. And this trend will continue when we see a Pharisee and a Roman in the coming chapters.

Differences- Phillip is a middle class jewish man. The Eunuch is a sexually altered black African. These men are different ethnically, from different backgrounds, different religious upbringing, and from entirely different parts of the world. But the unbelievable thin is that they come up out of the water as brothers. Apparently all those differences were drowned in the healing and uniting waters of baptism.

Cleanliness or Uncleanliness- Eunuchs were considered cut off from the temple and therefore unclean. By associating with him, Phillip would be defiled (so they thought). As the Spirit instructs Phillip to pursue this eunuch its apparent that Phillips cleanliness is not built upon him keeping away from law-breakers. Likewise the eunuch is baptized and welcomed in, showing us his clean status is not built upon his sinful state, but upon the righteousness of Another.

Social Status - The eunuch was CFO of his country, he had power and success. Phillip probably just an 'average Joe'.

To understand this account we have to ask the question- "Why would this man (eunuch) make a thousand mile journey to attend the temple for worship?" He had prestige and success. He had climbed the social ladder. He had made a huge sacrifice to get to where he was (becoming a eunuch). But he was still empty. He was still seeking something deeper. So he travels to the temple to find God. Unfortunately he would have been rejected at the temple because Deuteronomy 23:1 forbade eunuchs from entering the temple. Now here he is, heading back home after being rejected. He's hopeless and trying to figure this whole thing out, reading from Isaiah when Phillip comes up beside him to explain what he is reading and give him the hope of Christ!

He would have read this in *Isaiah 56:3-5*

Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say,

"The LORD will surely separate me from his people";

and let not the eunuch say,

"Behold, I am a dry tree."

For thus says the LORD:

*“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,
I will give in my house and within my walls
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.*

What amazing hope that would have brought the eunuch. Imagine that! He could receive a name “better than sons and daughters”. Wow! That's what he was looking for! But he must be quite confused. Why was he rejected if this promise is in scripture? And he certainly hasn't held fast to God's covenant', for he has been sexually altered!

When Phillip catches up to him he is reading from Isaiah 53

*like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.
By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?*

Phillip then explains to him that Jesus was the lamb that was slain for our sins, and that this eunuch could have a new identity defined not by his mistakes, but by Jesus. In other words, Phillip showed how Isaiah presents Jesus as his SUBSTITUTE- dying for his sins and living the righteous life God requires. Jesus became a leper for the lepers, and outcast for the outcast, excluded for those excluded. And for what purpose? So all those “unclean” sinners could be accepted by God.

We are all a lot like this eunuch aren't we? All unable to approach God because of our uncleanness. All excluded on account of our unrighteousness and not living according to the law of God. We all have shame and guilt around the bad decisions we've made (sort of like a eunuch who made a decision to alter his body in order to get what he thought was what he wanted, only to find himself empty and also cut off from God). We've all sought after things we thought would fill us and found ourselves empty. Yeah, we're a lot like this eunuch!

The eunuch would have heard, “Sorry God doesn't accept sexually altered people”. What do you hear? God doesn't accept divorced people. God doesn't accept addicts. God doesn't accept people who've had an abortion. God doesn't accept people who's internet history is that shameful. God doesn't accept anyone with such a checkered past. God doesn't accept someone with a temper like that! God doesn't accept someone with secrets like you have. God doesn't accept someone who is that irreligious. God doesn't accept someone who chose that sort of career for those reasons. God doesn't accept someone from that sort of family. God doesn't accept anyone who is a cheater. God doesn't accept anyone who is that unclean. God doesn't accept anyone who has committed THOSE heinous sins!

The good news of the gospel is that no matter what your “uncleanness”, no matter where your shame, guilt, and regret lie, Jesus Christ offers Himself as your new identity. He has died for all your sin (no matter how terrible and unmentionable), He has held perfectly to God's covenant for you. Now you no longer have to be defined by your bad choices, but can receive a new identity, one that is “better than sons and daughters”. Hallelujah!