

Acts  
Running Toward Evangelism  
Acts 8:26-40

Our society prefers pluralism to proselytizing, after all pluralism is so much easier. It simply accepts all truths, all religions, and all spiritual experiences as equally valid, truthful, and trustworthy expressions of spirituality. It embraces political correctness and excuses us from any responsibility that a particular belief system might try to impose on us. Pluralism makes proselytizing, the act of trying to convince or persuade people of other faiths to believe something different, unnecessary.

1. The gospel compels obedience in unexpected ways.
  
2. The gospel converts sinners in supernatural ways.
  
3. The gospel creates citizenship in counter-cultural ways.

The gospel breaks down the walls put up by ethnic, geo-political, and even religious boundaries. It offers us citizenship in Christ's kingdom regardless of where we are or where we have been. This citizenship is marked spiritually by conversion, physically by baptism, and emotionally by joy. We cannot disregard our mission mandate and settle for the pluralism of our secular society just because it is easier. As long as there are people who need to be saved by the gospel, we will be responsible for sharing it with them.

For further consideration

What reasons could Philip have given for not preaching the gospel at various points throughout chapter 8? What would he have missed out on if he had given up or failed to obey the commands of Jesus to go? Take a few minutes to read Isaiah 52:13 – 53:10. How would you use these verses to explain the gospel of Jesus to someone who has yet to believe and has no exposure to Christian terminology? Why is it good for us to remember that God delights in using His written word to convert the lost and expand His kingdom? Why is it important to include baptism in your gospel conversations? Why do you think God gifted His church with baptism as the marker for kingdom citizenship?