

SERMON OUTLINE

Speaker: Dr Andrew Peh

Text : Acts 8: 25 - 40

Title : Samaria And To The Uttermost Part Of The World

What is God's mission for you right now?

What would you regard is the "uttermost part of the world"?

Introduction:

What is the first word that comes to your mind, when I mention Lucky Plaza, Tekka and Geylang? The word association is often indicative of our own perceptions and prejudices.

In Acts 8, Philip was directed firstly to Samaria and then to encounter the Ethiopian eunuch. Ethiopia, then known as Cush, was regarded by the people in his time, as living at the ends of the earth. It is as if through the obedience of Philip, the Gospel was now going to the last two geographical spheres of the great Commission as given in Acts 1:8; to Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth!

Consider the differences between Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. Can you list the ways they are different?

And yet when the eunuch asked to be baptised, Philip did as was directed by the Holy Spirit. What if Philip allowed his own biases to affect his sensitivity to the leading of the Lord?

What about us? How have we allowed our own prejudices to curtail the mission of God?

God has called some to His mission in a cross-cultural context and this may include countries such as Thailand, Tanzania and in our times, even Texas. But for the rest of us, God has also called us to partner with Him to reach out to those people in our neighbourhood, those people who live across the road on the other side, or even those who live in our houses for which we have erected high walls of exclusion instead of embrace.

What possibly did Luke meant when he wrote, "Samaria and the uttermost part of the world." I am sure it does mean to the far corners of the world. But I am equally convinced that to be able to go to the uttermost part of the world, we first need to allow God to get into the innermost part of our hearts. We are reminded constantly that God has unfinished business, both in the outside world as well as inside of our hearts. **God is persistent in His mission, both in the interiors of our hearts and in the exteriors of our lives.** And like Philip, God is preparing us to encounter our Samaritans; God is preparing us to encounter our Ethiopian eunuch.

Where is your Samaria? And who is that "Ethiopian eunuch" that God is preparing you to meet this day?