

Philip and the Eunuch

By Richard Bott

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This script was created at a "Faith Formation Retreat" for London, Hamilton and Toronto Conference of The United Church of Canada.

The script was meant to be a "voice play" for two male voices.

When speaking, step forward and speak directly to the audience.

When not speaking, take a step back and 'disappear' in the eyes of audience.

1—Philip 2—Eunuch

1— Have you ever had that feeling that there was something that you just *had* to do?

2— Have you ever had that feeling that there was something that you just *had* to do?

1&2—I woke up that morning with that exact feeling.

2— I was a somebody! I had power and prestige. I knew the right people... and they knew me.
Sometimes that meant travelling from city to city... often going to the strangest of places.

1— I was a nobody (at least in the eyes of most people).
I had been called to share the good news for Jesus of Nazareth – the Messiah – and had found myself in the strangest of places.
I had been a follower of Jesus for some time. I had had the fortune to learn my faith from some wonderful people – powerful teachers... wise women, passionate men... people who truly knew the love of the One God.
I, on the other hand, was still learning.

2— I had been trained in the scholarship methods of various schools of philosophy. I was a well-educated man. I loved to read – anything I could get my hands on. *That day* I was reading about the teachings of Isaiah – a great prophet of the people of Israel.
There were many people travelling that day. I was fortunate that my entourage knew the route... I could concentrate on the words of the prophet.

1— I found myself heading to the crossroads, where there were many travellers that day. I saw him. He looked confused.

2— I was confused.

1— I had a sense that he was the reason I was here... so I ran beside his couch. *(pause)*
“Peace to you!”

2— “And to you.”

1— Feeling bold, I asked him a question: “Do you understand what you're reading?”

2— Interesting!

I had never had anything like this happen. As bold as anything this rather rough looking man asks me if what I was reading was making sense. I was about to tell him to be on his way when I realized that he might have something interesting to say. (And such boldness should be rewarded... at times.)

I laughed and said, “How can I understand this when I have no one to discuss it with... when I have no one to guide me?”

1— “Ah... the words of the prophet Isaiah. Yes, I can see how that might be difficult.”

2— I was surprised!

“You know this writing?”

1— Well... I had studied with a good teacher. I thought I was on solid ground when I said, “Yes.”

2— “Come, join me.”

1— I gathered up my courage, my heart sent up a prayer to Adonai, and I climbed up beside him.

1&2—For hours we sat and talked.

2— He had some intriguing ideas!

1— He had some intriguing ideas!

1&2—I learned much from him.

2— We came to a passage I had been wondering about for some time. I read it to him, wondering what he would have to say.

“Here... what are your thoughts about this:

'He was led as a sheep to slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth. In humiliation his judgement was taken away; who will relate his generation? For his life is removed from the earth.'”

1— For me, those words could mean only one thing. Even though I was afraid (so many persecutions of Jesus' followers). I began to tell him about Jesus of Nazareth ... the one I believe is the Messiah – the Beloved of God.

2— He was excited.

1— I was scared.

2— He spoke with passion.

1— I tripped over my words.

2— He made so much sense.

1— I didn't make any sense at all.

1&2—It was strange!

2— What he shared with me about his life... about his faith... spoke to something deep within me.

1— I had nothing more to say.

2— In the silence, I began to realize that *this* was what I wanted... what I needed.

1&2—Was it my/his words?
No!

1— It was the Spirit.

2— It was something in my core that caused me to ask, "What prevents me from being baptized?"

1— My heart leapt for joy! (*pause*)
OK... actually, I was in shock.
What was happening here?

2— The words were out of my mouth in a flash... and I didn't want to take them back!
What was happening here? (*pause*)

1— And together...

2— and together.

1&2—And together, we went down to the water.