

The gospel goes viral

Beyond the limits: the Ethiopian eunuch

Acts 8:26–40

How will the outcasts be gathered?

Luke 9:49–50, 11:52, 18:15–17—“... do not hinder them...”

Deuteronomy 23:1, Isaiah 56:1–8

1. The gathering that excludes the outcasts: Jerusalem (v26–31)

“How can I [understand] unless someone guides me?” (v31)

2. The gospel that embraces the outcasts: Jesus (v32–40)

“About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this...?” (v34)
Isaiah 53:7 cf 53:4–6

“What hinders me from being baptised?” (v36)

Implications

mobilised

cross-centred

Questions for discussion and reflection:

- What is most encouraging about this episode?
- What other methods of ‘gathering the outcasts’ are we tempted to trust?
- How might this passage shape our priorities over Christmas?