Witnessing in a Different Cultural Setting

As Christ followers, we all have multiple opportunities to witness for our faith. These opportunities can range from family, co-workers and even strangers we randomly meet. It is in this last category that Jacob has found his unique chance.

Jacob is part of a mission team. They are traveling on a short-term program to Turkey to help with local missionaries. The group is made up of new and seasoned church members of all ages. They have gone through considerable training prior to the trip and are uniformly excited about their anticipated role in spreading the word of Christ.

Ah, the best of plans……

As often happens with international flights, the group missed the scheduled evening connecting flight in a large middle east airport. This will delay the final leg of their trip for up to seven hours. After coming to grips with the delay, the group settled into a relaxation routine in the gate area of the airport.

Early the next morning, Jacob and his fellow group member, George, were awakened by a Muslim woman who was handing out large pieces of pound cake to those in the gate area. Given that carrying food from outside the airport is likely prohibited, Jacob presumed she had purchased the pound cake at the airport. The woman was very gracious. She was also accompanied by her husband and children who were obviously enjoying the experience. Both men were hungry and eagerly accepted the offer.

While eating, Jacob thought out-loud to George, “I have been looking at Acts 8 in terms of our mission trip. Philip, like us, was “on mission” as he proclaimed the gospel to the Samaritans (v. 5), and then later to the Ethiopian eunuch as he welcomed him into his chariot (v. 31). Could the hospitality of this woman turn into an opportunity for me to share the gospel as well?”

Jacob continues, “The parallel is amazing. First, God told Philip to go to a certain road (v. 26). Could this be analogous to our being delayed here in this airport? We would never have experienced the hospitality of this woman who, like the Ethiopian, is from a culture we do not fully understand. Second, after the incident with the Ethiopian, Philip was taken by God and never saw him again (v. 39). After today’s flight, we will not likely see her again. However, by God’s design, I may be seated next to her on the flight, or I could join her if the seat next to her
is empty. Could that be any less likely than Philip being on that remote road right when the Ethiopian drove by?”

“What I’m less confident of is how able I am to relate to this woman in a manner similar to that of Philip with the eunuch.”

After thinking a minute, George responds, “We have our Bibles and have several hours before the flight. We can each do some scriptural study for the next hour and then compare notes. I have no idea how all this will play out but how can it hurt to try if God is with us? Philip must have had similar thoughts when he climbed aboard the chariot.”
ASSIGNMENT

You have a brief amount of time to find those scriptures Jacob could use in his possible witnessing opportunity. What scriptural foundation would be most appropriate in leading him?

My Scriptural Research:

Group Scriptural Research:

Decisions / Recommendations:

Primary Scriptural References: