

Series: Teaming Up With Christ (4/15/18)

Title: PHILIP, THE PRACTICAL APOSTLE

(John 1:43-46; 6:5-14; 12:20-22; 14:6-14)

INTRODUCTION:

4 Philips in the Bible:

Phillip, Son of Herod the Great via Cleopatra:
Tetrarch of Iturea & trachonitis

Philip, Son of Herod the Great via Mariamme:
Herodias was his wife who left him for his half
brother Herod Antipas (Beheaded John the Baptist)

Philip, the Evangelist, 1 of the 12st Deacons.

Philip, a close friend of Andrew and Peter.

He lived in the same city as they did (John 1:44).

Andrew shows us how God uses ordinary men.

Peter shows us how God uses extraordinary men

Philip shows us how God uses practical men.

Practical means capable of being used.

Philip was the type of man who would not believe
anything he could not figure out or understand.

Many are like this today.

However, there are many things we cannot understand
but we accept such as electricity, television, computer,
radio, etc.

Billy Sunday used to say, "I cannot understand how
a chicken eats food, and it turns to feathers;
a cat eats food and it turns to fur;
a fish eats food, and it turns to scales."

He also said, "I cannot understand how a brown cow
eats green grass & gives white milk, but I still enjoy
drinking milk."

WE all like the practicality of Understanding, but
Understanding is not a prerequisite to Obey God.

We all accept many things that we do not understand

I. PHILIP

A. Philip: Greek name~ "warrior" or "lover of horses"
He is the only apostle who didn't have 2nd name
Peter/ Simon, Matthew/Levi, Thomas/Didymus

B. Personal friends of Andrew & Peter.

He talked to them a lot.

He placed great importance on this relationship.

They were all from Bethsaida.

Fishing village on NW coast of Sea of Galilea.

C. He was timid & retiring.

He was not loud.

He was often reserved.

He checked with Andrew about things first.

D. He is not to be confused with Philip the deacon.
(Acts 6:5; Acts 21:8).

1. No mention of Apostle Philip after Pentecost,
No mention of Deacon Philip b4 the Day of Pentecost

2. Philip the Evangelist led the Ethiopian
Eunuch to Christ, but (Acts 8; Acts 21:8).

E. The word that best describes Philip is "practical."

1. Once he knew what was expected, he obeyed.

2. We should not expect too much from new
Christians too fast.

They need answers and time to grow.

They need to understand things before
they can be used to their fullest
capabilities.

II. PHILIP CALLED: (John 1:43-46)

A. Philip might be that other disciple who was with
Andrew the day they heard John the Baptist preaching
of "Jesus the Lamb of God." (John 1:29).

B. Philip was called directly by Jesus to be His
disciple (John 1:43) (Luke 19:10).

C. The Call to "faith" & the Call to "follow" came at
once (John 1:43).

1. Paul had the same experience (Acts 9).

D. Philip would not step forward until he was sure of
his ground (John 1:45).

1. He had read all that Moses and the prophets had
said about Christ, but he wanted to be sure.

As soon as he was sure, he evangelized. (John 1:45)

Do you know the Lord as your savior?

Have you Found Him? Are you sure?

Are you reaching out to others?

Why not? Are you not sure?

2. Contrast what Philip said to Nathanael (John 1:45)
with what Andrew said to Peter (John 1:41)

Give them a Bible Answer! (John 1:45)

Most have never heard what the bible says.

(2 Tim 2:15) Study (1 Pet 3:15) Be Ready

E. Nathanael: *Can any good thing come out of
Nazareth*

Don't be afraid of Questions!

Use Questions to discern Motive/Spiritual condition

Philip said, "*Come & see*" (John 1:46)

Practical: Come see for yourself.

"Somebody had to show me, can I show you?"

Let them argue with the Bible, not you.

III. PHILIP TESTED: (John 6:5-14)

A. Feeding the 5000

Jesus asked Philip:

"Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat?"

Jesus knew Philip was practical so he wanted to see if he would act on faith or reason.

(John 6:6) *And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.*

The Holy Spirit will often let us have questions, so we will think, and seek the Lord for an answer.

After some thinking Philip said,
"Two hundred pennyworth is not sufficient for these that they may all take a little."

Philip was looking at the **money** & the **multitudes** when he should have been looking at the **Master**.

Never let the size of the problem or task overshadow the size of your God.

When Jesus multiplied the loaves and the fish, He showed that you can be too practical.

When you encounter problems through Obedience in service God, Expect Divine Help.

When you encounter problems through disobedience you will find help lacking.

B. Don't Be So Practical, that God can't work:
Philip's practicality was overshadowing his faith.
Philip's lack of Faith was contagious,
We hear it is Andrew's response to the same question.

(John 6:8-9) *One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, 9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?*

If Abraham had been practical, he never would have believed God. ***Faith isn't Practical.***

IV. PHILIP WAS PRACTICAL TO THE END

A. (John 12:20-21) Greeks came to see Jesus.
Philip's approach was the most practical.
They were only to go to the lost sheep of Israel.
These were Gentiles that were proselytes of Judaism

Now the Gentiles wanted to see Jesus.
They came to them on Palm Sunday.
They came to the one they seem to identify with.
Philip is a greek name.
Philip is raised 10 miles from a gentile town.
Philip was clearly not a leader among the disciples,
Probably made him more approachable.

Philip didn't know what to do so he called on Andrew.
He depended on him in these type situations.
He had seen Jesus deal with the Syrophenecian
He had seen Jesus deal with the Samaritan.
But these were full on Gentiles!

There is no dumb questions, bring them to Jesus.
(John 12:22)

B. a few days later, In John 14, after being with Jesus three years & seeing all the miracles, Philip was still not quite sure.

They were in the upper room.
They got a truck load of teaching, but they still failed to understand.
Philip's comment is just indicative of what they all were struggling with.

(John 14)

Vs 5 Thomas is having the same struggle.

Vs 6-7 Jesus Censures Thomas

Vs 8 Philip also is not connecting the dots

Jesus asks a series of rhetorical questions to get him to think.

Vs 9 You have been with me all this time.

How is it you don't know me.

Vs 10 Jesus explains the Power they have witnessed.

Vs 11 Jesus points to the evidence.

That should have helped practical Philip in a big way

Vs 12-14 OK lets think Practically.

If I am the Son of God, and I am, Then what are the ramifications of your relationship with me?

Are you connecting the Dots?

Are you so practical that there is no room for Faith?

If the claims of Christ are True, what would it take for you to believe them?

What would it take for you to act on them?

What would your life look like if you did?

CONCLUSION:

The last mention of Philip (Acts 1:13) just before Pentecost.

He did mission work in Asia Minor.

Syria, Phygia, & Greece.

He was Crucified in Hierapolis 80AD

If your practical life brings questions, seek God's Word for the answers.

Exercise faith and get the job done.

One day you will hear, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."