

Series: Teaming Up With Christ (3/4/18) PM

Title: Nathanael Bartholomew

Text: (John 1:43-51)

Introduction:

Nathanael was a good man; but in John 21, he left the ministry under the influence of Peter.

He quit fishing for men and started fishing for fish.

Have you ever messed up in your walk with the Lord and just quit?

Or wanted to quit?

Or just started doing things about half way?

Nathanael's life can help you!

I. THE MAN

A. HIS NAME (Jn 1:45)(Acts 1:13)

Nathanael & Bartholomew were the same man.

Bartholomew was probably his surname.

Nathanael ~ "gift of God"

Bartholomew ~ "the son of Tolmai."

Therefore, he was Nathanael Bartholomew or Nathanael the son of Tolmai.

B. HIS DESIRE (John 1:45) *Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.*

Philip implied Nathanael had been looking for the Messiah

He also implied Nathanael had been reading the OT.

Are you looking for Jesus?

Are you reading the Word of God? (John 5:39)

C. HIS NEED. (John 1:45)

He knew about Moses and the prophets.

But he did not know the Christ of the Bible.

Bad News always travels fast, but the Good News of Jesus had not yet reached Galilee. (John 1:43)

Nathaniel had not even heard of Jesus.

Nathaniel needed someone to point Jesus out to him.

Philip was pointed to Jesus by John the Baptist:

(John 1:36)

Nathaniel was pointed to Jesus by Philip.

Who Pointed Out Jesus to You?

Who are you Pointing to Jesus?

D. HIS PREJUDICE.

(John 1:46) *And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.*

Nazareth was a wicked town with a bad reputation.

Mary, Joseph, & Jesus did not use that as an excuse.

Philip called him Jesus of Nazareth, But He was born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

Philip called him the son of Joseph.

He is the Son of God (John 3:16)

He is God the Son (Matt 16:16, 27, 28)

Remember that Philip had not been saved very long.
However, he was eager to tell others about Jesus.

Philip made some mistakes in his witnessing, but God used him in spite of the mistakes.

The Lord do that with you also!

The Lord isn't looking for Perfection.

The Lord wants Willingness & Availability.

The lesson is --- tell what you know.

Tell folk what Jesus has done for you.

Then, tell them what He can do for them.

We are imperfect beings.

If men are offended by the Gospel, it should be the
Gospel that offends them and not us.

We must be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

E. HIS RESPONSE

(John 1:46) *Come and See!*

Philip brought Nathanael to the Lord to meet Him.

They obviously were friends prior to salvation.

So Philip & Bartholomew are always paired together
in the lists of the Disciples.

Your family and friends are right next door.

They all have some Idea about God, but

Have you told them the good news about Jesus?

Nathaniel was Skeptical of anyone from Nazareth,
Philip's testimony was enough for Nathaniel to
at least listen.

Is your Faith such that others would want it?

Is your character such that others would believe you?

Not many people will Come with the 1st invitation.

Stay at it, don't quit.

Have you ever brought anyone to the Lord?

It is a great feeling, isn't it?

Pray, Ask God to let you lead someone to Jesus.

Imagine, your name is associated with someone you
have led to the Lord.

The Only thing in heaven you will have from this
earth are the people you lead to Christ.

Do you remember the person who pointed you to
Jesus?

That's a good way to be remembered.

Don't quit bringing folk to Christ!

F. HIS CHARACTER

Jesus said Nathanael had no guile (John 1:47).

Guileless means he was not deceitful.
He was a good man.
He was open and honest.

Yet, this good man needed the Lord just as much as
the maniac of Gadara.

We seem to think honest people are all right.
As a general rule, the good people are the hardest
ones to lead to the Lord.

They struggle with the Concept that they are Sinners.
Sinners just like everyone else!

All men are sinners, but all men do not show it in the
same way. (Rom 3:23)
Some curse; others never say a curse word.
Some brag openly about their sin & then go do it.

Others never hint of sinning; yet, they commit the
same sins privately.

Remember, God sees and hears it all!

II. THE MASTER

A. Jesus knew Nathanael was a descendant of Joseph:
“Behold an Israelite indeed” Noble Character.
(John 1:47) *Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and
saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is
no guile!*

B. He knew his character

(John 1:47) “*in whom is no guile!*”

He knew there was no guile in him.
He was ISRAEL (Prince with God) and had no Jacob
(Cheat, Con Artist) in him.

This why Nathaniel was prejudice against Nazareth
because Nathaniel abhorred sin.
He wanted no part of it.
Are you known for your hatred & avoidance of sin?

Or do you play with sin, like there are no
consequences?

C. Jesus also knows everything about us.

(John 1:48) *Nathanael saith unto him, Whence
knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him,
Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under
the fig tree, I saw thee.*

Jesus reveals His deity in demonstrating Omniscience.
This encouraged Nathaniel’s Faith in Christ.

He knew things about Nathanael that no 1 else knew.
He saw Nathanael under the fig tree (John 1:48)

Before the person that led you to the Lord spoke to
you, Jesus saw you.
Jesus knows who you are. (Ps 139:1-16)
Jesus knows everything about you, & Still loves you!

Jesus loves you right now, the where you are.

Whether you were walking in the woods, doing housework, driving along the highway, Jesus saw you.

Long before you were saved, Jesus saw you.

III. THE MIRACLE

A. Nathanael trusted Christ & was saved:

(John 1:49) *Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.*

“thou art the Son of God;”

He confessed Jesus was the Son of God. (Rom 10:9)

“thou art the King of Israel.”

He Believed Jesus is the Messiah: (1 Jn 5:1)

It's just that simple. That's why it's a miracle!!
Have you had your Miracle yet?

B. Jesus told him of the Reward for his faith:

(John 1:50-51).

Trusting Christ is only the beginning.
God has great things in store for us.

“greater things” - Refers to Miracles

“ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”
speaking of Revelation from God to Nathaniel.

The more you know Jesus the More you know about God Himself.

Walking with Him, talking to Him, reading His Word, telling others and waiting for Him to come get us is quite a miracle.

One day, we will be with Him.

Let's take someone with us.

Nathanael quit, but it was only temporary. (John 21)

It is always too early to quit.

Nathanael accepted the challenge.

The challenge was “Come and see.”

Will you?