

# THE GOSPEL *of* JOHN

## CHAPTER 1:47-51

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### THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

" **B e c o m i n g   a   F o l l o w e r   o f   J e s u s  
C h r i s t   "   -   P a r t   2**

### THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

**John 1:12**

**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:**

### SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Being a Follower, a Disciple, a Christian**

## **Summation Sentence**

Last week we talked about the patience of God in the calling of the Lord's disciples or followers. This week we continue looking at the details of that calling...

Romans 11:29

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Philippians 1:6

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ

# Last Week...

## *Becoming a Follower of Jesus Christ*

### PART 1

#### 1.) Requires that you **Examine** Jesus Christ vv. 35-37

##### a.) Examine **What it is about Him** vv. 35-36

...John **stood** with two of his disciples. 36 And **looking** at Jesus as He **walked**, he said, "**Behold the Lamb of God!**"

##### b.) Examination Should **Lead you to Action** v. 37

Those two disciples who had **heard** john speak, they **followed** Jesus.

##### c.) Examination **Results in Expectations** v. 37

they **followed** Jesus.

**Followed grk** 190 akoloutheo (ak-loo-theia'-o);  
**To get on THE road**

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

#### **ALL ROADS LEAD TO GOD**

(all of humanity must appear before God in the final day of judgement)

#### **BUT ONLY ONE ROAD LEADS TO HEAVEN**

(no man comes to the father but through Me says Jesus!)

#### 2.) He Asks of You to **Delight** in Christ vv. 38-39

##### a.) Your **Hope will be Recognized** v. 38

Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them,  
**"What** do you seek?

**b.) Your Sight will be Changed**

v. 39

"**What do you seek?**" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying

**c.) Your Joy will become a Reality**

v. 39

And they came and saw where He was staying,  
**and remained with Him that day**  
(now it was about the tenth hour roman time / 4 pm Jewish time).

**3.) Compels You toward those you love**

vv. 40-42

**a.) Your Salvation is based upon facts**

vv. 40-41

40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "**We have found the Messiah**"

**b.) Your Conversion will be Persuasive**

v.42

42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

**4.) Jesus Will Communicate to you the Truth**

vv. 43-46

**a.) You're Personally Valuable to God**

vv. 43-44

43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

***Philip, John and Nathanael.  
John is in the Middle!***

**b.) You're to Depend Upon His Word**

v. 45

45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46 And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"  
Philip said to him, "**Come and see.**"

**" Come and see Nathanael ! "**

## *Becoming a Follower of Jesus Christ* *Part II*

This Portion of John Actually Dedicated to a Dialogue,  
Yes Between Jesus and Nathanael But Also Between Nathanael and His Bible  
**Our Dialogue With God Today is Better**

John 16:13-14

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

### He Does This By His Indwelling of Us

Ezekiel 36:27

"I will put My Spirit within you

## 1.) Acceptance of The Personal Jesus

vv. 47-48

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him,  
**"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"** 48  
Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered  
and said to him, **"Before Philip called you, when you were under  
the fig tree, I saw you."**

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him,

**"Behold, an Israelite.."**

**"Behold", an Israelite !**

**He Speaks Having "More" Than First-Hand Knowledge**

Nathanael, Whose Name Means  
*"Gift of God"*

**God Knows All That Can Be Known About You**

Psalm 139:14

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.

# The Lord Knows Us

**"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no (guile) deceit!"**

\*

**deceit** grk 1388 dolos (dol'-os);  
to be as a decoy. To live as trickery (bait), i.e.  
(figuratively) wily, crafty, to maneuver subtly.

Jeremiah 17:9

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately  
wicked; who can know it?"

# A Crafty, Manipulative Lifestyle is Not Present in Nathanael

Ephesians 2:1-4

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

## ***Nathanael Still Needed to be Born Again***

c.) The Lord Knows **Where We Are**

v.48

Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "**Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.**"

## **Get Into Nate's Sandals Here**

**Before... when you were under the fig tree**

in the Hebrew construction of this sentence what is implied is that  
((it was **Nathanael's Own Private or Favorite Fig Tree**))

**I saw you.**

The Omniscience of Jesus Christ is Seen Here

*His all Knowingness*

**I see you - ALWAYS !**

Psalm 139:6-10

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. 7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into

heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

## **Own Private Fig Tree**

One That He Had Selected for a Private Place

**This speaks of private devotion**  
Personal Devotion

In Manners and Customs of the Bible  
Dwelling, Reclining, Meditating under a Tree or on a  
Mountain Top was a Jew's Favorite form of Devotion

**An Easy Assumption Can Be Made Here**

**Nathanael Must Have Been Thinking About  
the Glories of the Messiah's Kingdom to Come**

Zechariah 3:10

"In that day each of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and fig tree," declares the LORD Almighty."

Micah 4:4

But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

Without Personal Devotion

- c.) You're in No Shape to **Leave Your House**
- d.) You're in No Shape to **Stay in Your House**
- e.) You're in No Shape to **Get Out of Bed**

## Because There are Decisions to be Made Because There are Actions to be Taken

Psalm 63:1

O God, You are my God; **early will I seek You**; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD,

**"See, There Was Something Going On Under That Fig Tree That Shot Straight Up To Heaven And Was Reflected Right Back Down into the Mind of the Son of God"**

### Nathaniel

Must have been reading from genesis 28 where God revealed Himself to that scoundrel, manipulative, opportunist - Jacob!!!

#### Verse 47

**"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no JACOB"**



# In Nathanael's Mind Perhaps

*"If God Would Reveal Himself to Jacob,  
Perhaps He Would Reveal Himself to Me Too"*

Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— these, O God, You will not ignore.

## This Encourages Us

Romans 15:4

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

### Nathanael

- Do You Remember **Who** Jacob Was?
- Do You Remember **What** Jacob Was?
- Do You Remember **Where** Jacob Was?

**Hey Nathanael,**  
**You Remind Me of Jacob After I got Done With Him**

### **Nathanael**

By The Time I Got Done Working With Jacob

I Had to Change His Name to **Israel**.

**"From Jacob the Sneaky to Israel Ruled By God"**

Ezekiel 18:31-32

"Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O Israel. 32 "For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"

**Nathanael Wasn't Sinless  
But He Had a Good Heart That Could be Worked With**

APPROACHING JESUS CHRIST

*Becoming a Follower of Jesus Christ*

**2.) Prepares Us to see God's Work**

**vv. 49-50**

49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these.**"

**a.) The Follower of Christ Looks to The Son of God**

**v.49**

Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God!"

**...THIS DIVINE KNOWLEDGE  
IMPRESSED HIM AT ONCE...**

(as if a good thing can come out of Nazareth)

Jesus who is divinely privy to the personal information and whereabouts of Nathanael is preparing him for the revelation of Himself as Messiah.

Those the Lord Calls - He  
Prepares in Advance

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

*Becoming a Follower of Jesus Christ*

b.) The Follower of Christ **Acknowledges** His Crown v.49

You are the King of Israel!"

**This is the Long-Awaited Cry That God Listens for from  
the Nation Israel**

\*

King grk 935 basileus (bas-il-yooce');  
the sovereign (abstractly, relatively, or  
figuratively)

Daniel 9:26

"...Messiah (The King) shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

**A Christian is Someone who Lives Within a Kingdom  
Who is Subject to The King of that Kingdom Or Else They're Not  
of the Kingdom nor do they have a King**

c.) The Follower of Christ can **Anticipate** more !!! v.50

Jesus answered and said to him, "**Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these.**"

**" You will see greater things than these."**

## More ! More ! More !

John 14:12

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

### *Becoming a Follower of Jesus Christ*

#### **3.) Determine to Seek the Lord**

**vv. 51**

51 And He said to him, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."**

## The Mystery is Solved !

**Genesis 28:10-17**

Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. **11** So he came **to a certain place** and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones **of that place** and put it at his head, and he lay down **in that place** to sleep.

**12** Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: **"I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. **14** "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. **15** "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and I will bring you back **to this land**; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." **16** Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is **in this place**, and I did not know it." **17** And he was in**

awe and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" 18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel - "The House of God"

## God Told Moses Regarding The land of Israel

Deuteronomy 26:2

...go to the place the LORD your God will choose  
as a dwelling for his Name

### NASA PHOTOS #1 - 8

## In Many Ways "Nathanael" is a Type of the Nation Israel

- Nathanael/Israel is doubtful and unbelieving
- Nathanael/Israel seeks after a sign from heaven
- Nathanael/Israel is associated with Jacob
- Nathanael/Israel is Mentioned regarding the Fig Tree a Type of the Nation
- Nathanael/Israel is told that They haven't Seen anything yet of God's power

3.) **Determine to Seek the Lord**

vv. 51

a.) **By Developing a Listening Ear**

v.51

And He said to him, "**Most assuredly, I say to you**

Learn to Get Alone with Jesus

b.) By **Fellowshipping** with His people v. 51

"hereafter" you shall see

c.) By **Studying** the Bible for Yourself v.51

I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

# No more Ladders Nathanael

## **Jacob Saw a Ladder With Angels Traveling Up and Down from Heaven to Earth**

- I am Not Only That Ladder
- I am The One Whom the Angels Work For
- I am the Reason for Their Traveling in the First Place

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men,  
the Man Christ Jesus,

John 10:7

Jesus therefore said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

A Very Private Time of Mediation and Study of God's Word  
Yielded to Nathanael the Greatest Revelation of all Mankind