

"The Disciples of Jesus Christ"

John 1:35-51

Introduction: Last week in our study of John we considered the time that Andrew and the unnamed disciple spent with Jesus.

Notice John 1:35-42

These two disciples spent the best part of a day with Jesus, and we see the result in the statement which Andrew makes to Peter. He tells him that they had found the Messiah, the Christ. We considered how valuable their time with Jesus was for what they learned in that time would forever change their lives. They did not say that they THOUGHT they had found the Messiah but after sitting at the feet of Jesus they knew who He was. They did not fully understand all that would unfold but for now they had the most important Truth. They knew who Jesus was.

When Andrew brought Peter to the Lord the Lord gave him a new name, Cephas which meant "stone." Peter would make many mistakes, but when Jesus looked at Peter, He saw in him the man he would become. This now brings us to where we are tonight in our study.

➤ **The First Disciples**

➤ **Part 3**

Notice John 1:43

Here we see Jesus calling Philip. It is interesting that the verse has the idea that Jesus had planned to go to Galilee. He went in search of Philip. He was the One who found Philip which implies that Jesus was seeking him.

Application:

If we would have been there to talk with Philip, I am sure he would have told us that he found Jesus.

Notice John 1:45

Notice what Philip says to Nathanael. He tells him he had found the Messiah. But the Truth is, Jesus found Philip.

This is exactly what happened in our lives when we were saved. We did not seek Jesus, but He sought us and He worked patiently in our lives to bring us to the place where we had to

decided if we would believe or chose not to believe. He brought us to a place where we had to make a decision. Let me show you some verses to support this Truth.

Luke 19:10

¹⁰ *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

Romans 3:10-12

¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

¹¹ *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

¹² *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

John 6:44

⁴⁴ *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:* and I will raise him up at the last day.

It was the Lord who sought us as we were on a path going directly away from God. Jesus sought us and began to work in our lives as the Father worked to draw us to Himself.

Notice John 1:43 again.

I find it interesting that John records the call of Philip. I say this because there is nothing that makes Philip stand out in the Gospels. Let us notice the times in which Philip is mentioned.

John 6:5-7

⁵ *When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?*

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

⁷ *Philip* answered him, *Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.*

Here Philip speaks and his words speak of his lack of faith, and this great multitude is in need of food.

John 12:20-21

²⁰ *And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:*

²¹ *The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.*

²² *Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.*

Here we see that Philip does not know what to do with the Greeks that want to see Jesus.

John 14:6-9

⁶ *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

⁷ *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.*

⁸ *Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.*

⁹ *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?*

Here we see that Philip did not fully understand the deity of Jesus Christ.

I point out these verses pertaining to Philip because from this God wants us to know that He uses ordinary people. When we look at the Apostles and other major players in the Bible we tend to believe that God only uses people who are on a different level than we are. But the Truth is that God can use any of us if we are willing to surrender to Him. We do not need to have all the answers to be used by our Lord. We only need to be willing to be used for His service.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

²⁶ *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*

²⁷ *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*

²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Notice John 1:44

Here we are told that Philip, Andrew, and Peter were from Bethsaida. The question then arises in my mind, "Why do I need to know this?" I believe that God wants us to search the Scriptures to find some information concerning Bethsaida.

Matthew 11:20-22

²⁰ Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

²¹ Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

²² But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

The city of Bethsaida was where the Lord did many mighty works, but the people of the city would not repent of their sin. They were deep in sin and did not want to give it up. Out of the dark background came these three men who would leave and impact upon the world.

Application:

This should be a great encouragement to all of us. How many times have we looked at someone's family situation, or looked at their place of employment and thought to ourselves that they would probably never consider a relationship with the Lord because of the surrounding which they are in? But to think that way is to deny the mighty power of the Gospel and the mighty power of God to save. He can reach right down into the darkest neighborhood and raise up one of His most influential disciples. Let us not get hung up on where people are from or what their present surroundings are like. Let us preach the Gospel and expect the Lord to do a mighty work.

Notice John 1:45

Here again we see spiritual multiplication. Philip learns who Jesus is and he needs to share this Truth with Nathanael. We do not know how much time Philip spent with the Lord before he went off to find Nathanael but, in the time, he had, he too learned Truth that would forever change his life. Philip identifies Jesus in two ways and John is sure to point to both.

1. The One of whom Moses spoke of.

Deuteronomy 18:15

¹⁵ The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

2. The One whom the prophets foretold.

There are many passages that foretold of the coming of the Messiah. But the reference here in John is speaking of the lowliness of our Lord and we know this because Philip tells Nathanael that Jesus was from Nazareth.

Jesus is the only Man whose birth, suffering, mission, death, and resurrection were all revealed in the Bible thousands of years before He was ever born. Jesus Christ fulfilled over one hundred prophetic passages that were revealed in the Old Testament. We do not know what prophecies Philip had in mind. There is one thing we do know from Philip's Words and that is he had a deep knowledge of the Old Testament.

As John writes this it is his desire to show us by Philip's testimony that Jesus is the Messiah who had been foretold by many verses in the Old Testament. We do not even begin to understand the importance of what John is writing here. When Jesus was born, He fulfilled 109 prophecies written in the Old Testament. There was a man who died in 1980 by the name of Peter Stoner. He was a Christian writer and a statistician. He studied the prophecies of Jesus Christ and the probability of one man fulfilling even just a few of the prophecies in the Old Testament. Notice the illustrations that he used.

"Let us try to visualize this chance. If you mark one of ten tickets, and place all of the tickets in a hat, and thoroughly stir them, and then ask a blindfolded man to draw one, his chance of getting the right ticket is one in ten. Suppose that we take 10 to the 17th power silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting

the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them in their own wisdom."

He goes on with another statement.

"You may say that one man in four has been born in Bethlehem; that one of these children in four was taken to Egypt, to avoid slaughter; that one in four of these came back and made his home in Nazareth; that one in four of these was a carpenter; that one in four of these was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver; that one in four of these has been crucified on a cross; that one in four was then buried in a rich man's tomb; yes, even that one in four rises from the dead on the third day; and so on for all of the three hundred prophecies...

Any man who rejects Jesus Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact proved perhaps more absolutely than any other fact in the world."

Conclusion:

Now we can better understand why Jesus often pointed to the Old Testament as evidence of who He was.

Luke 24:27, 44-45

²⁷ *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

⁴⁴ *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

⁴⁵ *Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,*

John 5:39, 46

³⁹ *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

⁴⁶ *For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me.*