

"The Disciples of Jesus Christ"

John 1:35-51

Introduction: The last time we were together in John we were looking at the first disciples of Jesus Christ.

Notice John 1:35-44

In these verses we see 4 disciples. Andrew, Peter, Philip, and the unnamed disciple who is believed to be John. Andrew, Peter, and Philip were all from Bethsaida, which we considered the last time. Andrew identified Jesus in verse 41. He called Him the Messiah which means, the Christ. When the Jews spoke of the Messiah they were thinking of the King that would come and establish His Kingdom. They believed Him to be the One to deliver them from the Roman Empire.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 11:1-9

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

² And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

³ And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

⁴ But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

⁵ And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

⁶ *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.*

⁷ *And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

⁸ *And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.*

⁹ *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

This is what many were looking for. But Jesus would teach them that the cross would come before the crown. There was much that these disciples would need to learn. But they did understand that Jesus was the Messiah and that they believed.

➤ **The First Disciples**

➤ **Part 3**

Notice John 1:45

Philip now goes and finds Nathanael and tells him that they have found the One whom Moses and the prophets wrote about. Then he describes Jesus with 2 titles. First, he calls Him Jesus of Nazareth and then he calls Him the son of Joseph. We need to take some time and consider both of these.

➤ **Jesus of Nazareth.**

This is an interesting title which Philip uses. Why was Jesus called by this title? People were often called by the town which they came from so as to separate them from others with the same name.

Luke 23:26

²⁶ *And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.*

But there is more to this title given to Jesus than just where He was living.

Matthew 2:23

²³ *And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.*

Here in Matthew 23, we that when Mary and Joseph returned from Egypt after Herod died, they settled in Nazareth. This verse tells us that the prophets stated that Jesus would be called a Nazarene. The interesting thing here is that no record of this is found in the Old Testament. So how are we to understand this verse?

We cannot be dogmatic on the meaning here, but some believe the prophecies of our Lord's humble beginnings are covered in the fact that He was from Nazareth.

Psalm 22:6

⁶ But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

Isaiah 53:1-3

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

² For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

When we move on we will see that Nazareth was a place of low reputation. This then raises a question, "Why would God send His Son to grow up in a town like Nazareth?" I believe there is a verse in Hebrews that shines light upon this question.

Hebrews 2:9-10

⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

¹⁰ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Jesus was made "perfect" through sufferings. This means He became perfect in experience. He went through the sufferings of His life so that He could identify with us when we go through difficult times. To grow up in Nazareth most likely served the same purpose. Our Lord was not surrounded by riches, glamor and an easy life. He grew up with

people who struggled in life and for that reason He can relate to us when we go through times of struggle and difficulties.

➤ **The Son of Joseph**

Philip uses this title to identify Jesus, but we know that Jesus was not the son of Joseph, but He was the Son of God. John knew that Jesus was not the son of Joseph.

John 20:30-31

³⁰ *And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:*

³¹ *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

Philip calls him the son of Joseph either because he does not yet have the full picture or it was just a way to identify Him apart from others named Joseph.

Notice John 1:46

Nathanael questioned the statement made by Philip, but Philip did not argue with him he just invited him to come and see.

Notice John 1:47-49

Here in verse 49 Nathanael shows his knowledge of the Old Testament. His mind went directly to Psalm 2.

Psalm 2:4-7

⁴ *He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.*

⁵ *Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.*

⁶ *Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.*

⁷ *I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.*

When Jesus revealed that He had seen Nathanael under the fig tree that is really the first miracle that is recorded. This revelation to Nathanael was enough to convince him

that Jesus was the Son of God and the King of Israel. He knew for sure that Jesus was the Messiah.

Notice John 1:50-51

Here in verse 51 Jesus makes a statement that requires us to know the Scriptures to understand what He is saying. He is not talking about a vision that Nathanael will see as much as He is speaking of His own function. To understand this, we must go back to the book of Genesis.

Genesis 28:10-17

¹⁰ And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.

¹¹ And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

¹² And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

¹³ And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

¹⁴ And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

¹⁵ And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

¹⁶ And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.

¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

Notice John 1:51 again.

The angels will ascend and descend upon Jesus. From this we can know that Jesus is the **LADDER**. He is the ladder that has spanned the great gulf between man and God. He is the manifestation of God to man.

John 1:18

¹⁸ No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 14:8-9

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?

He is also the representative of man to God. He came here to be our Substitute that would die for our sins upon the cross in order to satisfy the righteous demands of God. Jesus is man's connection to the Father.

1 Timothy 2:5

⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Conclusion:

Let us notice something else that Jacob said.

Genesis 28:17

¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

Jacob saw the gate of heaven. That is exactly what Jesus is. He is the Gate/Door.

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

John 10:9

⁹ I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.