



INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 1:35-42 The next day after John the Baptist stood, and two of his disciples looked upon Jesus as He walked by. John had said, *"Behold the Lamb of God."* These two disciples heard him speak this and they followed Jesus (1:35-37). Jesus turned, and saw them following Him, and asked *"What are you seeking."* They said unto Him, *"Teacher, interpreted, Master, where are you dwelling?"* Jesus said, *"Come and see."* They came and saw where He dwelt, and abode with Him that day at about the tenth hour (1:35-39). One of the two which heard John speak, and followed Jesus, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. Andrew told his brother Simon, that they have found the Messiah, who is called, the Christ. Then he brought Simon to Jesus. When Jesus looked at Andrew's brother, He said, *"Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone"* (1:40-42). Jesus sees the potential within a man and longs to change that man to make him everything he can become.

I. MORE DISCIPLES JOHN 1:43-46

1:43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, **Follow me.** In this day, the last of four consecutive days of following Jesus, it leads Jesus to Galilee where He would find Philip and invites him saying *"Follow Me."* The scripture said that Jesus found Philip which meant that He sought out Philip. Jesus is always direct in whom He is looking for. To follow Jesus means to be in close union with Him; in close companionship with Him, and become like Him. Whomever you follow, their traits will follow you.

1:44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip was of the same town *"Bethsaida"* as Andrew and Peter (disciples called before Philip). *"Bethsaida"* was just northeast of where the Jordan flows into the Sea of Galilee from the north.

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.** And this is like a ripple effect because Philip finds Nathaniel. This news astounded Philip because he said *"We have found Him."* *"He's the one whom Moses in the law, and the prophets had written about. He's Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."* This concerned the fulfillment of the Scriptures about the messiah. It was a must for Philip to witness to his friend. He went out and did just as Jesus had done to him. Jesus sought and found Philip. So, Philip finds Nathaniel. Note four points:

1. Philip was extremely joyful. You could just hear it in his voice.
2. God's eternal plan for man and his world is recorded in Scripture (Jh.5:39).
3. Philip knew the Scripture. He was familiar with the prophecies of the Promised Messiah.
4. Jesus of Nazareth was definitely identified as the Messiah.

1:46 And Nathanael said unto him, **Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith**

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unto him, Come and see. Nathaniel responds with doubt and prejudice by saying *"Can there (be) any good thing (coming) out of Nazareth?"* And Philip invited him to come and see. Now, this is Nathaniel's time to seek Jesus; his time to see for himself; to take away the any skepticism, doubt, or prejudice.

II. GREATER UNDERSTANDING JOHN 1:47-51

1:47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!— This reminds me of the father of the prodigal son that sees his son coming from a great distance. Here Jesus sees Nathaniel coming to him. One thing that stands out about Nathaniel is that Jesus tells us to look by saying *"Behold an Israelite indeed."* This meant he was the epitome of an Israelite; everything an Israelite should be. He believed the promises of God, and he tried to live up to the covenant name; the standard God had set for Israel. Jesus knew Nathaniel's beliefs. Jesus goes on to say *"...in whom there is no guile."* *"Guile"* in itself means trickery or deceit. But Jesus said *"No Guile"* which meant that he did not deceive, bait, or mislead people. He was straight to the point! He did not hide what he thought. He thought and acted what he felt. He was straightforward, open and honest; not deceptive or hypocritical. In another translation: *"Here comes an honest man—a true son Israel."* So, why is Jesus saying this? – Because many deceive, bait, and mislead others. And that kind of legacy is meaningless in witnessing. Few are straightforward, open and honest, free of deception and hypocrisy. So, Jesus was really complimenting him for his honesty and sincerity.

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 had not even called his name, but the things Jesus said about him caused Nathaniel to be straightforward, asking Jesus *"how you know me or where you know me from?"* Jesus went way back to give this answer by telling him that He knew him before Philip even called him. He knew him even when he was under the fig tree. Jesus saw him there (in his quiet moment of devotion). Now, that was something significant because in Palestine the fig tree stood for peace, security, rest, and worship (*1 Samuel 4:25; Micah 4:4*). Very often a man would seek solitude and worship under the fig tree. And at that moment Jesus was really saying to him that He knew everything about Nathaniel, even the deepest longings of his heart. Jesus knew Nathaniel's despair and sense of hopelessness. He knew his longing for peace, release, and freedom.

1:49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. This was confirmation to Nathaniel that Jesus indeed was who Philip claimed Him to be—the fulfillment of the Scriptures; the Son of God; the King of Israel. This was enough for Nathaniel to give his life to Jesus forever. Jesus did not even have to say follow me. Nathaniel called Jesus *"Rabbi"* which meant Teacher; Master. He called Him *"the Son of God"; "the King of Israel (Messiah)."* He's really in the zone now; you can just feel the joy as he says this. His hope has risen; his longing is at peace.

1:50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. Jesus blessed Nathaniel even greater because He knew when Nathaniel believed; when his insight was different that there was a change; a shift. Jesus said to him—*I saw you under the fig tree*, and there came no other question from Nathaniel's mouth. He only spoke by revelation of faith of who Jesus was. Because he believed. He may have remembered the prophecy from Isaiah 11:2 *"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."* Jesus then told him that he will see greater things than these.

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1:51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man. Yes, Jesus is about to reveal more to Nathaniel. *"He shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."* This refers to Genesis 28 where the Old Testament gives the story concerning Jacob's ladder. Jacob runs from his brother Esau after stealing Esau's birthright. As he rests he dreamed of a ladder from earth that reached to heaven and the angels of God ascended and descended. And the Lord stood and spoke *"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;... when Jacob woke out of his sleep, he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not."* Christ Jesus Himself is the Ladder between God and man since He was *the Son of God* (1:49) and *the Son of man* (1:51). Verily, verily, I say unto you, heaven has opened for us.

SUMMARY:

In this day, the last of four consecutive days of following Jesus, it leads Him to Galilee where He would find Philip and tell him to *"Follow Him."* It said that Jesus found Philip which meant that He sought out Philip. Philip was of the same town "Bethsaida" as Andrew and Peter (disciples called before Philip). And Philip finds his friend Nathaniel and tells him, *"We have found Him. He's the one whom Moses in the law, and the prophets had written about. He's Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."* It was a must for Philip to witness to his friend. He went out and did just as Jesus had done to him. Jesus sought and found Philip. So, Philip finds Nathaniel. Nathaniel responds with doubt and prejudice by saying *"Can there (be) any good thing (coming) out of Nazareth?"* And Philip invited him to *"come and see"* (1:43-46).

"Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" This meant that Nathaniel displayed everything an Israelite should be. He believed the promises of God and he tried to live up to the covenant name, and the standard God had set for Israel. He did not deceive, bait, or mislead people. He was straight to the point! He did not hide what he thought. He thought and acted what he felt. He was straightforward, open and honest; not deceptive or hypocritical. Jesus had not even called his name, but the things Jesus said about him caused Nathaniel to be straightforward, asking Jesus *"how you know me or where you know me from?"* Jesus went way back to give this answer by saying He knew Nathaniel before Philip even called him. He knew him even when he was under the fig tree. Jesus saw him there (in his quiet moment of devotion). At that moment Jesus was really saying that He knew everything about Nathaniel, even the deepest longings of his heart. Jesus knew Nathaniel's despair and sense of hopelessness. He knew his longing for peace, release, and freedom. This was enough for Nathaniel to give his life to Jesus forever. Jesus did not even have to say, **"Follow Me."** Nathaniel called Jesus *"Rabbi"* which meant Teacher, Master. He called Him *"the Son of God"; "the King of Israel (Messiah)."* Jesus blessed Nathaniel even greater because He knew when Nathaniel believed; when his insight was different that there was a change; a shift. Jesus said to him—*I saw you under the fig tree*, and there came no other question from Nathaniel's mouth. He only spoke by the revelation of faith of who Jesus was. Because he believed. Jesus then told him that he will see greater things than these. *"He shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."* (1:47-51).