**MC900300900[1]St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church**

**Wed Night Bible Study**

**JOHN 1:43-51**

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**JESUS CALLS PHILIP AND NATHANAEL**

***John 1:43-51 (NLT)*** ***43  The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Come, follow me.”   
44  Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter’s hometown.   
45  Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.”   
46  “Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” “Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied.   
47  As they approached, Jesus said, “Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.”   
48  “How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.”   
49  Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”   
50  Jesus asked him, “Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.”   
51  Then he said, “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.”***

[**1:43-44**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A43-44)**.** Though the first disciples were from Galilee, **Jesus** had called them in Judea where they were with the John The Baptist. On His way north to **Galilee, He** called **Philip** to be His disciple. Philip's hometown **of Bethsaida** was on the northeast side of the Sea of Galilee. **Andrew and Peter** were also born there.

[**1:45**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A45)**.** Philip's testimony to **Nathanael** stressed that Jesus is **the** Promised **One** of whom **Moses** ([Deut. 18:18-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+18%3A18-19); cf. [John 1:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A21), [25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A25)) and **the prophets** ([Isa. 52:13-53:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+52%3A13-53%3A12); [Dan. 7:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A13); [Micah 5:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mic+5%3A2); [Zech. 9:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+9%3A9)) **wrote.** Philip surprisingly called **Jesus... the son of Joseph.**

[**1:46**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A46)**. Nathanael** stumbled over the lowly upbringing of Jesus. **Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?** Nathanael knew of the poor reputation of Nazareth. Surely the Messiah would come from Jerusalem, How can the *Logos* be a Man? **Philip** was wise enough not to argue, he gently invited his friend to meet Jesus: **Come and see.** He knew that Nathanael's questions would then be resolved.

[**1:47**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A47)**. Jesus,** having supernatural knowledge (cf. [v. 42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A42)), called **Nathanael... a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false** ("deceitful") unlike Jacob (cf. [v. 51](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A51) with [Gen. 28:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+28%3A12)).

[**1:48**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A48)**. Nathanael** was puzzled as to **how** Jesus knew about him. **Jesus** said He knew exactly what Nathanael was doing **before Philip** came up to him; he was **under the fig tree.** This expression often meant to have safety and leisure (cf. [1 Kings 4:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+4%3A25); [Micah 4:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mic+4%3A4); [Zech. 3:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+3%3A10)). Perhaps here the fig tree was a place for meditation.

[**1:49**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A49)**.** Jesus' supernatural knowledge moved **Nathanael** to confess Him as **the Son of God** and **the King of Israel.** This does not mean that Nathanael at this early date fully understood the Trinity or the Incarnation

[**1:50-51**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A50-51)**. Jesus** promised Nathanael a **greater** basis for belief, probably referring to the miracles in [chapters 2-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+2-13). From [1:48](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A48), [51](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A51) it can be inferred that Nathanael was meditating on Jacob's life, particularly on the incident recorded in [Genesis 28:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+28%3A12). Jacob saw the angels going up and down a ladder. But Nathanael would **see... the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.**

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty..