

Nathanael

“They were Called”



“Philip now went off to look for Nathanael and told him, ‘We have found the Messiah!—the very person Moses and the prophets told about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth!’ ‘Nazareth!’ exclaimed Nathanael. ‘Can anything good come from there?’ Just come and see for yourself.’ Philip declared.” John 1 45-49 The Living Bible

“Many times the phrase ‘Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?’ has been interpreted as a negative question. I said it, but it was not a negative statement. I am Nathanael, sometimes referred to as Bartholomew. One day Philip approached me and said ‘We have found the Messiah – the very person Moses and the prophets told about.’ I responded ‘Can any good thing come out of Nazareth!’ My response to Philip’s statement that he had found Christ was a response of a wonderful fulfillment of a prayer rather than a statement of disbelief. I knew the Messiah would come because He had said He would, but I just was so glad to see that He had come to us, to me.

“When I met Christ He told me that He had known me even before Phillip took me to meet Jesus and join the disciples. He also said ‘Behold an Israelite in whom is no deception.’ He told me He had seen me under the fig tree! I praised Him and said ‘Thou art the Son of God; Thou art the King of Israel.’ What a wonderful feeling to know that Jesus had sought me out just as He seeks you out today. But then He told me even more. He said ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.’ I didn’t understand it then, but I did see it. I saw Christ ascend into Heaven on that sad day that He left us and told us He would send the Holy Spirit to be with us forever. He did as He said he would.

“God chooses the people He knows will do the job regardless of their background, education, social status, or even where they were born. I was as simple as those shepherds were on the night Christ was born in Bethlehem. I know that Christ could see through me like an open book. But, then He can do that with everyone. Remember God made us in His image, so He knows us through and through. He knows our coming and He knows our going. I pray that you also are found without deceit by Jesus and that your relationship with Him will be as openly sincere and honest. May God bless you and your family as you seek to know my Jesus better.”

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we see so many signs of Your love everyday, and we take them for granted. Help us to accept them as Your gifts to us, and then help us to lead others to know that You are the one, and through You we can all have eternal life with You beginning today and forever. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen

1. Can anything good come from someone in a neighboring town? Don’t they have to be from far away and have many degrees?
2. And who would have believed those “wise” men? Would you? Would I?
3. What do we require before we realize that Christ is the One?
4. What can we learn about ourselves from Nathanael?

*Some scholars believe that Nathanael and Bartholomew were the same. Others believe they were two different men. Nathanael is mentioned in John; Bartholomew is mentioned in Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts.

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