



~ Come and See ~

“Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” – John 1:45

Nathanael was an Israelite that, like many others, was looking forward to the coming of the Messiah. He knew the scriptures well and knew that according to the prophecies, the time had come for the Messiah to appear. Already, reports of Jesus were circling and many were present at the Jordan shoreline when John the Baptist had proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God. (*John 1:29-34*)

But, Jesus did not fit the traditional mindset of what Israel expected their Messiah to look like or come from. Jesus came bearing the marks of toil and poverty, not riches and glory. The priests and rulers heard the reports regarding Jesus and because He would not conform to their ideas, they rejected Him.

Yet, Nathanael was still questioning. The reports of Jesus made him desire to study the scriptures for the prophecies of Messiah himself and he decided to go to a quiet grove under a fig tree to meditate upon this announcement of John regarding Jesus and to think upon the prophecies. He prayed that God would make it clear to him if Jesus really was the Deliverer John the Baptist said He was. He wanted to know for sure. It was at that moment that Philip found him.

Philip related to Nathanael that they had found the One that the scriptures pointed to. Here was the direct answer to Nathanael’s prayers. He called Nathanael to come and meet Jesus and even though his own faith faltered by adding that He was *“Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph”*, he persuaded Nathanael to come and see for himself.

When Jesus saw Nathanael, He gave him the sign he had prayed for. *“Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit! Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” – John 1:47-48*

It was enough. *“Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” – vs. 49* Nathanael had come to Christ with an honest desire for truth, and now his desire was fulfilled.

So it is with us today. If Nathanael had trusted to the rabbis for guidance instead of seeking the scriptures for himself in prayer, he would never have found Jesus. When he was bid “Come and see!” he came. It was by seeing and judging for himself that he became a disciple of Jesus.

Many of us may have preconceived ideas or beliefs that block our way to receiving the good things of God. How different would be our results if we would just “come and see!”

Too often, we trust to the guidance of a human authority or preacher and when we do this we will never come to a saving knowledge of truth. Like Nathanael, we need to study God’s word for ourselves, and pray for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. The same Jesus who saw Nathanael under the fig tree will see us in our own secret place of prayer. Angels of heaven are near all those who seek for divine guidance with humility of heart. When we seek after truth with our whole heart, we will not come back empty.

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