

# John's Gospel @ CF!

John 1:35-51 (43-52 focus)

Sermon Notes – BK

February 25, 2024

## The Gospel of John

Listen here



While it may seem we have not gotten that far – just finishing chapter 1 – seeing's that this is **week 8** of the Gospel of John –

- 1) We have covered a **WHOLE LOT** of amazing theology of who Jesus is.
- 2) We have been able to get a **good look** at John the Baptist.

### **LAST WEEK –**

- 3) We looked at the **encounter of Andrew, (John, though unnamed), and Simon** (who Jesus named Cephas/Peter).

\*(We have just about all of the messages of the series online at [centralfaith.org](http://centralfaith.org) if you would like to catch up on the back-story.)

We are going to **jump right into the verses we covered last week** to remind us of the **context**, then **launch into the verses for today...**

### **PRAY**

#### **John 1:35-42**

***<sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup> He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).***

The **highlights** of last week –

**JTB announced again** (possibly for his disciples' sake) ...

***“Behold, the Lamb of God!”***

That was all **Andrew** (and the “unnamed” disciple, John) needed to hear to choose to follow Jesus...

The transition from JTB to Jesus was beginning.

When Jesus came by, these two were ready to pursue Him...

**WE COVERED** these first words we see of Jesus in the Gospel of John – It was the question to Andrew (and John)

***“What are you seeking?”***

## Other versions -

- *What do you want?*
- *What are you looking for?*
- *What seek ye?*

The first words of Jesus in John's Gospel are **important words for us today as well...**

***“What are you seeking?”***

- **If Jesus were to ask you that questions today, how would you answer?**

**These two answered Jesus...**

### **John 1:38b**

***“Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?”***

I love that **these two simply** wanted to **BE WITH Him!**

Would there be **anything better?**

Jesus said simply to them... ***“Come and you will see.”***

**These were likely the most amazing life-changing hours of their lives!** I cannot even imagine.

**So life-changing that...**

- **Andrew finds his brother Simon** and tells him they have found the Messiah.
- **Andrew brings Simon to Jesus...**

### **John 1:42**

***<sup>42</sup> He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).***

**Jesus saw what was yet to come for Simon...**

- **Jesus renames/adds to the name of Simon**
  - o **Jesus is speaking into Simon's future**
  - o **He is calling him out to be what God made him to be**

**And as we know... Peter becomes the man and the Apostle that God created him to be...**

As I have mentioned, **John is not really concerned about perfect chronology, or the order in which things happen...**

***This encounter with Andrew and Simon was not likely the time he called them to follow Him.***

**This is where the other three Gospels come in.**

**John is just giving this more crayons/color**

- **Again, John has other things in mind with his Gospel**
- **Remember, John is more of the WHO than the WHAT**

**I love and appreciate all of this.**

**John's Gospel brings awesome insight...**

## TODAY we will see even more!

Let's read on...

### John 1:43-51

***<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> 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." <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup> And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."***

I love how **each of these disciples** have different first-time experiences with Jesus.

After his time with Andrew and John, Jesus ***"...decided to go to Galilee."***

The "next day" more likely means when Jesus decided to start His journey...

Since it was about **100 miles north**, Jesus would **not** be there the next day! This is a long 4-5 day journey likely ...

There, ***"He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."***

Here we see Jesus, ***"found"*** Philip

- There is **no other disciple** that can say this.
- Philip is the only one the Bible says Jesus ***"found."***
- It is **likely Jesus knew Philip** from previous interaction.
- Remember, **John is not as concerned with chronology**...

Upon finding Philip, Jesus calls him to. ***"Follow Me..."***

- The wording here is in the **present tense**, meaning ***"Follow Me and keep on following Me."***
- This was a ***"formal invitation."***

In the **same way Andrew** went to find Simon, **Philip goes to find Nathaniel** (Nathaniel likely the same as **Bartholomew**, his more formal name, in the other Gospels)

Philip says to Nathaniel, ***"We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."***

***What does this tell us about Nathaniel, even reading how Philip presents his news?***

(Response?)

**I believe it points to the kind of Jew Nathaniel is.**

- He is a **lover of God**
- He is in **hope of the Messiah**
- He **knew his Bible**
- He was a **direct kind** of guy...

Phillip says of Jesus that **He is:**

- A **fulfiller of the prophecies** and
- In fulfilment of **what Moses had started**
- Philip also identifies Him as a Nazarene
- Son of Joseph

**Strange thing about Jesus...**

- His title (Jesus of Nazareth) had to do with where His family was from (Luke 1:26) and He grew up, **not** where He was born.
- Jesus never corrected it, after all **it was true**
  - o He **did grow up** in Nazareth
  - o This was **the town** His mother and father were from and **re-settled in**
  - o This was **not** where he was born (in fulfilment of the prophesy)
  - o **Jesus of Bethlehem would have carried a LOT more weight...**
- Jesus kept the title, though Nazareth was considered a lowly town
- This title brought no credibility...

Yet, in a strange way, it fulfilled what was written about the Messiah in Isaiah 53 –

**Isaiah 53:1-3**

***Who has believed what he has heard from us?***

***And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?***

***<sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;***

***he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.***

***<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.***

**Jesus always took the “low road” – Not calling attention to His pedigree or his birthplace...**

**He let His actions speak AS He spoke the truth of the Word of God.**

This was **NOT** the “easy way” to build a following –

- **BAD marketing!**
- **BUT Jesus was NOT TRYING to build a following, He was building a Kingdom**
- **Jesus was calling and gathering His team** to build up to carry on the mission, post-resurrection.

**THIS whole thing comes out pretty clearly with *the response from Nathaniel***

- He was from **Cana**, a city north of Nazareth
- He likely **had a bit of an attitude (prejudice?) against those from Nazareth... as many did**

**We see this in his response to Philip.**

**Nathaniel replies in a way that I'm sure he would have like to take back later...**

***“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”***

Philip doesn't even “go there” – he just says

***“Come and see.”***

Nathaniel is not disappointed...

Even before they “shake hands” (so-to-speak), Jesus calls out... *to Nathaniel's character...*

- As Jesus calls out *who Simon will be*, Jesus calls out *who Nathaniel was...*

Jesus speaks of *all kinds of inside-stuff* here...

Let's unpack this a bit...

Jesus said, as Nathaniel was coming toward Him...

**John 1:47b**

***“Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”***

Jesus points to Nathaniel being “one of Israel” – an Israelite...

- The original “Israelite” being Jacob (Gen. 32:28)
- BUT in THIS Israel, “...*there is no deceit!*” – Jacob...
  - o Jacob's name meant *deceiver*, implying *trickery*...

Jesus is saying of Nathaniel, “*You are the real thing, there is no trickery in you!*”

The **Amplified** says –

***“Here is an Israelite indeed [a true descendant of Jacob], in whom there is no guile nor deceit nor duplicity!”***

The **NLT** puts it –

***“There's a real Israelite, not a false bone in his body.”***

Nathaniel is caught off guard by this – but it must have struck a note with him and asked,

***“How do you know me?”***

Jesus called to something only Nathaniel knew about...

***“Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”***

This rocked Nathaniel's world

What does this even mean?

This could be as simple as, “*I saw you when you were praying (or whatever) under the fig tree.*”

**The Chosen** gives a great scene were *in the series*, Nathaniel is an architect and **everything goes wrong** – Searching for God, he spends time under a fig tree in *prayer* and *weeping before God*...

**The Fig Tree is something of significance in Jewish culture –**

- Tied to **prayer** – you could regularly find religious leaders, and others in the shade of a fig tree in prayer
- Tied to **prophecy** of the **end times** as well...

**Micah 4:1-5**

*It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the Lord  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and it shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and peoples shall flow to it,*

*<sup>2</sup> and many nations shall come, and say:  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”*

*For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*

*<sup>3</sup> He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;  
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore;*

*<sup>4</sup> but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree,  
and no one shall make them afraid,  
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.*

*<sup>5</sup> For all the peoples walk  
each in the name of its god,  
but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God  
forever and ever.*

**Whatever the case may be, this was very significant to Nathaniel.**

So significant, he **exclaims** –

***“Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”***

**This is all Nathaniel needed to hear – He was convinced!**

- He had a deep and real change of heart...
- FROM a bit of mockery re: Nazareth TO “*the Son of God...*” The Messiah!
  - Big shift.
  - Fully convinced

**That’s what Jesus does...**

We are **seeing in action the WHO of Jesus** that the Apostle John describes in the first verses...

**Jesus calls you out** according to **how He made you...**

...Like with **Peter**

**Jesus calls to you in who you are** as a pursuer of God...

... Like with **Nathaniel**.

Jesus responded to Nathaniel with something like...

***“You think that’s good? It gets a whole lot better than that!”***

Then **Jesus goes on** to describe...

***“Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”***

**Wow – this is LOADED!**

***“Truly, truly...”*** – Literally means ***“Amen and Amen”***

- This is a **unique thing to John**, he uses ***“Truly, truly”*** **25 times** in his Gospel
  - o It implies **certainty**,
  - o It implies **confirmation**.
- The **implication** is this is **IMPORTANT**
- **HIGHLIGHT** those passages
- **UNDERLINE** them in your Bible
- **They MEAN SOMETHING important!**

It is **interesting** the **“you” goes from the singular to the plural...**

...Jesus is **now speaking to all** who will hear...

**HOWEVER**, it is **still** in the context of the conversation with Nate...

***“Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”***

Do you **see** the **imagery** here?

Previously, Jesus called to Nathaniel...

**John 47:b**

***“Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”***

- ***“a true Israelite...”***
- ***“a true descendant of Jacob”***

Jesus carries on the imagery He started with Israel (formerly Jacob) – **With Nathaniel**, there was...

- **No deceit**

- The real-deal

## NOW Jesus goes to the scene we see in Genesis 28...

- Isaac sends Jacob to his relatives to find a wife.
- On the way, Jacob has a dream...
  - o In it he sees a ladder “*on the earth and the top of it reached to heaven...*”
  - o “*...the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!*”

This is the picture that Jesus is referring to...

The Word of the Lord that comes with it is what is of great interest here...

### Genesis 28:15-17

***15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”<sup>16</sup> Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.”<sup>17</sup> And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”***

This is the word Jesus is saying is NOW being fulfilled...

Jesus Himself IS the ladder – bridging earth TO Heaven.

We see later in John, Jesus put in a different way...

Jesus says of Himself in John 10, in another “*Truly, truly*” passage...

### John 10:7-10

***7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.***

***“Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”***

This is **STILL** a promise for us today...

**WE** will see it as well!

What a **GREAT HOPE!**

Nathaniel (Bartholomew) is only listed in the rest of the Bible as one of the disciples... there is no other ink on him...

Yet, Jesus spoke highly of Him here... *and I am guessing only went up from there*





**We see some significant things about Jesus here today –**

- He is the **Son of God**
- He is the **King of Israel**
- He is the **Son of man**
- He is the **bridge for us to Heaven...**

- **Jesus finds** those who He calls

- **Jesus calls out** who we are

**Jesus promises great things to those who follow**

**What is it that the Lord is calling of you?**

- **Similar to Nathaniel**, but different
- Here, there is an **“I see you”** element
  - o **When no one else** does
  - o **When no one else seems to care**
  - o **Jesus sees you**
- **Jesus has GREAT THINGS** in store for His people