Jesus Wants YOU
John 1:43-51

Interact with Christ
43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, *Follow me.* **44** Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Christ Seeks Sinners
- Jesus sought Philip for salvation and to join the mission work.
- When Jesus found Philip, He called him into action.
- Jesus still goes forth to find people who will follow Him today.
    - Luke 19:10 – *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*
    - John 10:10 – *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*
    - John 18:37 – Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, *Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*
    - 1 Timothy 1:15 – This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Christ Summons Sinners
- Following Jesus has a dual meaning: to be in union with Him and to be uniform to Him.
- Following means submitting to the Lordship of Jesus.
    - Luke 9:23 – And he said to them all, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*
    - John 10:27 – *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*
    - John 12:26 – *If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*
- The response to Christ's call must not be delayed.
    - Genesis 6:3 – And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.
    - Proverbs 29:1 – He, that being often reproved hardeneth *his* neck, Shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.
- God's call is for believers to mirror the work of Christ and go and find sinners for salvation.
    - Acts 1:8 – *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*
    - Matthew 25:35-36 – **35** *For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:* **36** *Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

Christ Shared by Saints
- Philip was from the same town as two of the first disciples Jesus called.
- The impact of those who already believed influenced Philip's spiritual direction.
    - Matthew 5:6 – *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

    - John 7:37 – In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, *If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.*
- Though these three powerful men of the faith were from this town, the place was generally wicked and denounced Christ.
    - Luke 10:13-14 – **13** *Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.* **14** *But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you.*

Invite others to Christ

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. **46** And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

Passion of Ministry

- Following Jesus makes one like Him.
- Therefore, Philip found Nathanael as he was found by Jesus.
    - John 20:21 – Then said Jesus to them again, *Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*
    - 2 Timothy 2:2 – And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
- Philip was excited to announce the discovery of Jesus the Christ.
    - John 15:11 – *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*
    - John 16:24 – *Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*
- Philip and Nathanael were exposed to the Scripture enough to recognize the fulfillment of prophecy.
    - 2 Timothy 2:15 – Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
    - 1 Peter 2:2-3 – **2** As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: **3** If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

Pessimism of Men

- Excitement for the Lord is not always returned by the one to whom the message is being delivered.
- The tone of the text makes it seem that Nathanael had tried many things to fulfill a longing in his heart and was skeptical of the news he was being told.
- The weight of the world will leave you hopeless, while the witness of Christ will make you hopeful.
    - 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.
    - Ephesians 2:12 – That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

- Nathanael's hopelessness led him to accept the world's despair and adopt a down-and-out heart.

Persistence of Messiah

- Despite the attempts to discourage Philip's efforts, he persisted in inviting his friend to come and see Jesus.
    - Acts 4:20 – For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.
    - Titus 2:15 – These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.
    - Psalm 66:16 – Come *and* hear, all ye that fear God, And I will declare what he hath done for my soul.
- Perhaps Philip's persistence was due to being able to relate to the slander of being from an evil town.

Intimate with Christ

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, *Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!* **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.* **49** Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. **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.* **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.*

The Heart of the Man

- Jesus looked at the condition of Nathanael's heart and saw that he was an Israelite in his beliefs, expectations, and desires.
- Jesus sees the good, the bad, and the ugly in every heart.
    - John 2:25 – And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.
    - 1 Corinthians 1:30 – But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
    - 1 John 3:20 – For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.
- In addition to the condition of Nathanael's heart, Jesus saw the character of his heart: no guile, no deception or misleading.
- Nathanael was a man who said what he thought and acted on what he believed. No one had to guess where he stood.
- Being honest before God is the route to holiness.
    - Matthew 5:8 – *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*
    - 2 Peter 3:14 – Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.
    - Psalm 24:3-4 – **3** Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? **4** He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; Who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, Nor sworn deceitfully.
- Hiding from God is not an option, but humility and honesty lead to openness.

- Luke 12:2 – *For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.*
- 1 Corinthians 4:5 – Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

The Holiness of the Messiah

- Conviction without confession leads to conflict.
  - Matthew 10:32 – *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*
  - Luke 12:8 – *Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:*
  - Romans 10:9 – That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- Confession without direction leads to confliction
  - Luke 3:38 – Which was *the son* of Enos, which was *the son* of Seth, which was *the son* of Adam, which was *the son* of God.
  - John 1:1-2 – **1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** The same was in the beginning with God.

The Heavens and the Mediator

- Nathanael's belief opened him up to the opportunity to receive greater blessings from God.
  - Mark 9:23 – Jesus said unto him, *If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*
  - 1 Corinthians 2:9 – But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
  - Ephesians 3:17-19 – **17** That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; **19** And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.
- Access to the Father is through Jesus. Therefore, the blessings of the Father is through Jesus.
  - John 14:6 – Jesus saith unto him, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
- When Jesus dwells in your heart, He dominates your life.
  - Colossians 2:9-10 – **9** For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. **10** And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:
  - Hebrews 1:3 – Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;