

BE ONE. MAKE MANY!

# DISCIPLES

## "Nathanael - Jesus Saw Me"

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(Mark 3:16-19)

### I. Nathanael is \_\_\_\_\_

John 1:45 "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.'"

Luke 24:27 "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

### II. Nathanael is a \_\_\_\_\_

(John 1:46)

#### A. Not Understanding the Facts

#### B. Not Understanding His Own Prejudice

John 1:46a "Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?'"

John 7:24 "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

John 7:52 "They replied, 'Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.'"

#### C. Nathanael Needs to See For Himself

(John 1:46b; Psalm 34:8)

### III. Nathanael is \_\_\_\_\_

(John 1:47)

• **Definition of deceit (δόλος (dolos): false, hypocrisy, cunning, treachery, sly, trickery**

Psalm 32:2 "Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit"

### IV. Nathanael is \_\_\_\_\_ By the Lord

John 1:48 "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.'"

2 Chronicles 16:9a "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth."

### A. The Lesson of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Micah 4:4)

### B. The Omniscience of God

### V. Nathanael \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ

#### A. A Life-Changing \_\_\_\_\_ (John 1:49)

John 4:17-18 "The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband.'"

John 4:29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"

#### 1. Peter

(John 6:68-69; Matthew 14:33b)

#### 2. Martha

(John 11:27)

#### 3. Thomas

(John 20:28)

#### 4. The Centurion

(Matthew 27:54b)

### VI. Nathanael Will \_\_\_\_\_ Even More Works of God

John 1:50 "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.'"

John 1:51 "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.'"

#### A. The Mystery of Jacob's Ladder

(Genesis 28:10-14)

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the Ladder Between Heaven and Earth (John 1:51b)

#### 2. Why Do You Need a Ladder?

### VII. Nathanael Will Understand \_\_\_\_\_

(John 21:1-3, 17-19)



a. Read John 1:43-51

Historical/Literary Context: The name Nathanael means "God gives or God has given" and is the personal name for this disciple.<sup>1</sup> Bartholomew is a "patronymic" name, which identifies Nathanael's family heritage (who he is the son of), Son of Tholomae or Son of Tolmay.<sup>2</sup> Nathanael is not mentioned all that often in the gospels outside of the lists except in John 1:43-50 and John 21:2. He was from Cana of Galilee and is said to have translated the gospel of Matthew into Indian and preached the gospel in the country of India. He was beaten profusely and crucified by the unbelievers there.<sup>3</sup> It is possible that Nathanael was meditating or seeking God under the fig tree, since rabbi's had a history of studying the Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) under fig trees (John 1:50).<sup>4</sup> Similar to Thomas, Nathanael appears to be quite skeptical, especially after hearing where Jesus grew up, namely Nazareth.

All this to say, Jesus' remark that there is no deceit in him is fascinating, because it reveals something about Nathanael's character, in the midst of his skepticism (John 1:47). Jesus not only had omniscient knowledge about Nathanael's location and movements, but Jesus could see directly into his heart. Nathanael was skeptical, because his knowledge was limited about the Messiah. Once Jesus gave him more evidence, namely his divine omniscience, Nathanael accepted and believed the new information he gained after meeting Jesus, unlike the religious leaders who condemned Jesus after seeing his miraculous power.

- Why is the observation sitting under the fig tree significant (John 1:50)? (Note Micah 4:4; Zechariah 3:10; 1 Kings 4:25; the Micah and Zechariah passages seem to be messianic prophecies)
- Why do you think Jesus' comments prompted Nathanael's response, "You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:49)?
- In John 1:50, what "greater things" was Jesus referring to?

- Jesus knew what was in Nathanael's heart in a positive way. How is it comforting (positive) and frightening (negative) that God knows our hearts?
- Nathanael was quick to acknowledge Jesus' identity when he was faced with it. How quick are you to acknowledge Jesus' workings in your life?
- Nathanael was quite careful with who he trusted. He seemed to need evidence before placing trust in someone. How careful are you in regards to false teachers, tv preachers, cults, and people who claim to be preaching Christ? What can we learn from Nathanael in this way?

[illegible]

D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*, PNTC (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991), 159.  
<sup>2</sup> Carson, *The Gospel According to John*, 159; John Nolland, *The Gospel of Matthew*, NIGTC (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005), 412).  
<sup>3</sup> John Fox, *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* (Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishing, 2004), 6.  
<sup>4</sup> Strack and Billerbeck, *A Commentary on the New Testament from the Talmud and Midrash* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2022), 431.