

I. Andrew and Peter (John 1:40-42)

1. Andrew - the first to follow Jesus (**verse 40**)

Simon is the name Peter was still called at this point

2. Both (Simon and another) heard John - then followed Jesus

-this is John the Baptist

3. He first finds his brother (**verse 41**)

-the follower became a finder

Rea -Andrew is a little-known player in the big scheme of things... but God uses people to reach people. Therefore, you may not be a Peter, but you may be the one who “found” Peter.

Rea -it is people who reach people, not necessarily pastors

-by telling him about Jesus he demonstrates real love

Rea -note the chain of telling people... John the Baptist told Andrew, then Andrew found his brother Simon

4. The Messiah

Rea -check out the story of Simeon and Anna at Luke 2:22-40 - who recognized Jesus as an infant... as the Messiah

5. Jesus addresses Simon - you will be Cephas (Peter) (**verse 42**)

Simon - Jewish

Cephas - Aramaic

Peter - Greek

6. He calls (also) Philip (**verse 43**)

-“follow me”

- a command, not an invitation

7. Philip was from Bethsaida (**verse 44**)

Philip “found” Nathanael and told him about Jesus (**verse 45**)

Identified as the one Moses wrote about in the Law - as did the prophets

-a clear reference to the Christ

Jesus, also used the “law and the prophets” to tell them about Himself - Luke

24:27)

8. Nathanael is skeptical (**verse 46**)

-anything good - speaks to the character of those people

-Philip does not argue, he simply invites “come and see”

Rea -the idea is “see for yourself”

Rea Ideas and Questions:

1. Have you ever led anyone to Christ? - why, why not?

2. So, to lead one to Christ it is often necessary to “find” them first

3. They led people who were closest to them... at the end of the gospels, we find a commission to not just do this but to go into all the world

II. Nathanael - John 1:47-51

1. An Israelite in whom is no deceit (**verse 47**)

Rea -guile is “deceit” - KJV

-Jesus’ words speak to the integrity of Nathanael

2. Nathanael responds how do you know me? (**Verse 48**)
 - I saw you under the fig tree
 - so, Jesus knew everything about Nathanael
- Rea -at John 4, the Samaritan woman says He knew everything I'd ever done
3. Then Nathanael believes (**verse 49**)
 - you are the Son of God, the king of Israel
 - he places himself under the leadership of Jesus
- Rea -realizing the identity of Jesus is a first step in following Him
4. You will see greater things than that (**verse 50**)
- Rea -is this a prediction or is this simply a statement of the future-knowledge of Jesus?
5. Here is what you will see - heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending - on the Son of Man (**verse 51**)
 - a reference to Jacob's vision at Gen. 28
- Rea -I like the image of a ladder into and from heaven - Gen 28:12
- Rea -note here, that it is not about "getting into heaven" by this ladder, the angels ascend and descend "on the Son of Man"
- people now approach God through Christ
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. He is "the way"
 - the way into heaven
 - the way to know God
 - in the same way a ladder is a way (like a staircase)
 2. Jesus gives us what we need to truly believe
 3. This lesson touches on early disciples who met Jesus
 - is there a priority in the ministry of Jesus to establish leaders/ disciples/ apostles first? - how key is leadership?
 4. Jesus is not "put off" by the doubts of those who don't believe... yet

Jere Phillips - Lesson for 12-11-22