

John 1:43-51

*43 The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He *found Philip. And Jesus *said to him, "Follow Me."*

*44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. 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."*

*46 Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip *said to him, "Come and see."*

*47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and *said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"*

*48 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."*

49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."

50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

*51 And He *said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

I hope you have your Bible. I want to go back and look at some things as we close on this chapter of John.

Go back to verse 38. Jesus turned and saw the disciples of John following Him. He asked, "What do you seek?"

Jesus gave them the invitation/command. "Come, and you will see."

Andrew went to Peter in verse 41, and said to Peter, "We have found the Messiah."

Go forward to the passage from which we just read. In verse 43, Jesus found Philip, and said, "Follow Me." Now we don't know what the conversation was between verse 43 and 44. We are given a brief bio of Philip. But notice verse 45. Philip found Nathaniel and said, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

God tells us in Jeremiah 29, "¹² Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."

What are you seeking? What are you searching for?

Some seek refreshing of your spirit. You're spiritual life has grown stagnate. You need a fresh movement of Spirit of God on your life. Will you find it?

Some seek renewing of your spiritual life. The newness of your life with Christ has faded.

Lamentations tells us that morning by morning, new mercies we see of the Lord. He has the ability to show Himself new to you day by day. Will you find it?

Some seek significance. Does your life really matter? Am I important? These men we read about were men who were of the common life. They lived their lives in the obscurity of being fishermen. Yet, Christ stepped into their life. In Him, they found meaning and significance. Will you find that today?

Some seek release from prison that you find yourself shackled to? It may be a prison of a habit. It may be prison of a lifestyle. It may be a prison that has come about through circumstances that were beyond your control. You seek release. Will you find it?

Will you find it today?

In this passage are three different individuals that are seeking.

Seeking Sinner

The seeking sinners of this passage are the disciples of John the Baptist. They repent of their sin, but John does not have the power to give final forgiveness.

By the fact that John (if we assume the unnamed disciple of John the Baptist is John) and Andrew were disciples of John the Baptist and started following Jesus when He was introduced as Lamb of God, tells us that these two men were seeking something. Jesus Himself asked that question of the two. "What are you seeking?"
Come and you will see.

As we saw last week, the two were seeking the One who will forgive sin. However, I think they were seeking more. Notice again what Philip told Nathaniel in verse 45. *We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.* Notice also, verse 44. John makes a point of telling us that Philip was from Bethsaida, the city that was the hometown of Andrew and Peter. I wonder if these four guys got together on occasion, perhaps a home Bible study, and searched the OT of the prophecies of the coming Messiah. I wonder if after they studied together, they lived daily with an eye out for the one who is Messiah. They were seeking and they found.

The Gospel of John is written for those who are seeking someone. John gladly introduces you to Jesus Christ. The purpose of his writing is given in the last verse of chapter 20. "But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

A two-fold purpose is given. First, he desires to introduce his readers to Jesus the Christ. Chapter 1 of the Gospel is an expansion of that purpose. Look at the ways Jesus is introduced.

Verse 1 The Word who was with God, and was God.

Verse 3 The Agent through which creation came into existence.

Verse 4-5 He is the Light of life.

Verse 14 He is the Word who became flesh.

Verse 29, 37 He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Verse 41 – He is Messiah.

Verse 49 – He is Rabbi, teacher.

Verse 49 - He is Son of God and King of Israel.

He also desires you to have a relationship with Him so that that which you seek, you will find.

Now the second Person who is seeking in the passage may surprise you, or may not surprise you.

The Seeking Savior

Yes, these men were seeking the Messiah. What they discovered is that Jesus was seeking them.

I don't think it was an accident that Jesus happened to walk by John the Baptist when John introduced the disciples to Him. Notice also that Jesus did not invite the disciples to follow Him until they asked.

It was different for Philip though. He went directly to Philip and issued to him the command, "Follow Me." However look again at the first words of verse 43.

On the next day, He purposed to go to Galilee. It was a planned trip. Quite literally, Jesus willed to go to Galilee. He wanted to go to Galilee. It is not a will as if it were a wish, but a will as something that was going to happen.

This is not the only place in John where we will see Jesus purposing to do something, or go somewhere. Later in John 4:4, we find these words, "And He had to pass through Samaria." A Jew never passed through Samaria when traveling from Judea to Galilee. They would go to the Jordan River, cross the river, travel north to where the Jordan borders Galilee and cross back over the river. Jesus had to pass through Samaria.

Here is what I want you to understand. When you come to the end of your seeking because you find Jesus meeting you at your needs, you will find also that He was seeking you before you were seeking Him. You remember sensing God's Spirit speaking through scripture. You remember sensing God's Spirit prodding you because of something said. You remember sensing God's Spirit moving you when you had a particular experience. God will chase you.

John 15:16 – "You did not choose Me, but I chose you."

To many of you who have come to Christ since I have been here, I can personally give testimony to you that I saw God pursuing you before you pursued Him. Do you think that that neighbor of influence just happened to move in next door? Do you think that it just happened that the church bus came by your house?

It is a fearful thing (by fearful, I mean frightful) to think and know that God chases you. It is a fearful thing (by fearful, I mean an awesome, blows our mind kind of thing) to know that God chases you. The motive of His chasing you is love and grace.

It is by grace you have been saved through faith, and that is not of yourself. It is a gift of God, not as the result of works so that no one will boast.

Jesus sought Nathaniel. Notice the conversation. I'll have to make short comments about the narrative.

Jesus said, "Behold a true Israelite in whom there is no deceit, cunning way, or treachery." Jesus saw a true Israelite not on basis of external, but internal. He saw in Nathaniel. Nathaniel responded, "How do you know me?" It can also be translated, "Where did you know me?"

Jesus said, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." The fig tree is where a Jew had his quiet time. Jesus, God's Son met Nathaniel where Nathaniel met God. Woo! That's powerful. That is why Nathaniel responded, "You are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel."

Nathaniel sought. He found. But before that, Jesus sought. He found.

Seeking Saint

Who are the seeking saints in this passage? It was the seekers after meeting Jesus—Andrew and Philip. What did they seek after meeting Jesus? First, they sought a deeper relationship with Jesus. Second, they sought others who were ready or needed to hear of Jesus.

The more you know Christ, the more you want to know Him. Does that make sense? If you know Christ, you understand. The more you know the more you want to know. The more you know, the more you want to share.

Seek Him. Seek others. Who is that you seek? Who in your circle of friends, family, co-workers need Christ? Sharing with others is how growth takes place.

You seek Him today. If you did not come seeking Him, I declare to you that He seeks you. He is speaking to you through His Holy Spirit. That which oppresses you, seek Him, so that He can release. That which brings guilt, seek Him, so that He can forgive you and restore you. That which brings discomfort and sadness, seek Him, so that He may be your comfort and become your joy once again.

When those who sought found, they rejoiced. They praised God. They started fresh with renewed energy for Him.

God tells us in Jeremiah 29, ¹² *Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.* ¹³ *You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*