

## **WE HAVE FOUND HIM!**

### **John 1:43-51**

Eureka! I have found it! When you find something of great value, it can be exciting and fulfilling. But the greatest find of all is Jesus...but in reality He always finds us first!

#### **1. THOSE WHOM JESUS FINDS HE USES TO FIND OTHERS – John 1:43-44**

- Jesus goes to Fishtown in Galilee and calls Philip to be His follower. Ultimately it is always Jesus who calls us even when He uses human means and human witness – John 15:16; Acts 2:39. Just as Jesus found Philip, Philip found Nathanael. John 1 is full of the variety of how God brings people to Jesus – some through John the Baptist’s witness, some through one on one witness, some through direct calling. God normally uses people to reach other people. We see this as Philip goes immediately to tell Nathanael about Jesus. *“All these men became disciples this way: by following Jesus.” – Richard Phillips.*
- God still calls people today through Jesus and through us and His Word – 1 Thessalonians 2:12,13; 5:24. Let us know Jesus is our greatest joy and treasure. Are you praying for and seeking to share the good news of Jesus with those around you? Do you invest in the harvest? Do you know the gospel so you can share it? *“We are one beggar telling another where to find bread.”*

#### **2. WE FIND IN JESUS THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD’S PLAN AND GOD’S WORD – John 1:45-49**

- Jesus is the One of whom Moses and the prophets wrote – Genesis 3:15; 12:3; Deuteronomy 18:15; Isaiah 9:6,7; 53:5,6; Jeremiah 23:5. Jesus is the fulfillment of the whole Old Testament. He Himself claims to be the One of whom Moses wrote – John 5:39, 45-47. The whole Old Testament is incomplete without Jesus – Luke 24:27; 44,45. When you find Jesus, you find the focus of God’s Word. Jesus is the key to understanding the Bible.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s plan, but not in a way many think. He comes in humility as Jesus of Nazareth and appeared to be the son of Joseph. These become stumbling blocks for people acknowledging Jesus as Messiah. Nathanael responds to Philip with skepticism about Jesus’ hometown: *“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”* Nazareth was a small no account town of perhaps 2,000 people. It was also in Galilee and people did not think Messiah would come from Galilee – John 7:40-43, 50-52. People also questioned Jesus birth – John 8:41,42. But Philip quotes Jesus – *“come and see”*. When people are skeptical of Jesus, invite them to spend time with Him! Invite them to check Him out.
- Jesus as God in human flesh sees what is in the hearts of humans. Nathanael meets Jesus and Jesus calls him an Israelite in whom is truly no deceit (or Jacob!). Nathanael asks Jesus how He knows him. Jesus tells him that He saw him under the fig tree before Philip came. There are many explanations of *“under the fig tree”*, but it probably simply means the place where Philip met him. Jesus sees into our souls. Nathanael is so stunned by the glory of Jesus that he bursts out in glorious praise of Jesus. Jesus is not just the son of Joseph, He is the Son of God. We find here titles for Jesus: Rabbi, Son of God, and King of Israel. Jesus is all these plus a whole lot more!

### **3.WE FIND IN JESUS THE ONE WHO CONNECTS US TO GOD – “YOU WILL SEE HEAVEN OPENED” – John 1:50,51**

- Jesus says you (plural) will see greater things than these. The greater things here refers to greater revelation from God and His glory in Christ, including the signs in this book revealing Jesus' glory. Jesus uses His formula “truly, truly” (amen, amen) for the first time in John (of 25 times). This stresses the absolute truthfulness and trustworthiness of what Jesus is saying: “I solemnly tell you...”; “Let me firmly assure you.” You will see heaven open means to see into God's Heavenly glory and have God's approval – Acts 7:56; Matthew 3:17; John 12:28-30.
- Jesus is the only way to God. He links Himself to the account of Jacob's Ladder - Genesis 28:12, 13, 16-19. Jesus is claiming He is the One who connects God and Man. He Himself is the Ladder to Heaven. Jesus is the new Bethel, the house of God, the new place where God is revealed, where heaven and earth meet - John 1:18. He is mediator and Savior. Jesus is the only way into God's presence – John 14:6. *“...the cross is the supreme manifestation of His glory. By the cross heaven is thrown wide open, God draws near to man, and man is reconciled to God... 'As the holy patriarch that wondrous dream was given, So seems my Savior's cross to me a ladder up to heaven.'” – F.F. Bruce.* The angels come and go at His command and through and by Him. Jesus is the focus of the traffic that brings Heaven's blessing to us. Jesus calls Himself the Son of Man – Daniel 7:13,14. This verse also points to the coming glory of Christ in His death, resurrection, and ultimate final glory to come – Matthew 26:64; Revelation 19:11,15-16. *“You shall see' relates...to the entire gamut of the action of the Son of Man for the Kingdom of God: from the heaven that became open at His baptism, the blessings of the saving sovereignty will be poured out through Him – in the signs He performs, the revelation of His Word, the life that He lives, the death and resurrection He accomplishes (His 'lifting up'), till the goal is attained when the Son of Man welcomes the redeemed to the Father's House.” – George Beasley-Murray.*
- When you have found Jesus, you have found the way to God. If you follow Jesus you will see greater things than you imagined. You will see sinners transformed by God's grace and forgiveness for people who were beyond hope. Heaven is now open for all who trust in Jesus – Hebrews 4:14-16.
- Let us rejoice in the Ultimate Treasure of Jesus. We see His glory revealed even in His titles in John 1: Word – v. 1, 14, God – v. 1, 18, Life – v. 4, Light – v. 5, 8,9, One and Only Son – v. 14, 18, Lamb of God – v. 29, 36, Son of God – v. 34, 49, Rabbi – v. 38, 49, Messiah – v. 41, 45, King of Israel – v. 40; Son of Man – v. 51. Jesus is everything we need, desire, and hope for. Let us not be ashamed to speak of Him and live for Him.

#### Concluding Applications:

- Are you following Jesus?
- Do you find Jesus as the focus of the Bible? Is Jesus the focus of your life?
- Are there areas of your life where you are not following in obedience to Jesus?
- How does this passage encourage you to share Jesus and tell others about Him?