

I SEE YOU





John 1:43-51

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Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

**48 "How do you know me?"
Nathanael asked.**

**Jesus answered, "I saw you while
you were still under the fig tree
before Philip called you."**

**49 Then Nathanael declared,
“Rabbi, you are the Son of God;
you are the king of Israel.”**

**50 Jesus said, “You believe because
I told you I saw you under the fig
tree. You will see greater things
than that.”**

51 He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

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Big Idea

Nathaniel is a religious man who has tasted disappointment and turned cynical. Philip his friend invites him to meet Jesus, who affirms Nathaniel and opens his life up to greater insight and living than he ever dreamed would be possible.

Dripping with Cynicism

46 **“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?”** Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

Cynics Believe:

Be pessimistic about life

People are motivated by self-interest

No one can be trusted fully

The Cynic Life

*Believe the worst about everything - - - you
will be right most of the time.*

Critics – believe there is a God, but because of the pain of life or bad experiences, they just give up hope on religion.

Skeptics – they question all religious dogma. They are intellectual but do not believe that God has the answers.

Romantics – they have an idealistic mind-set, and are looking for utopia in church. If disappointed enough, they will become cynics.

Cynics – they have tried church, religion, and have gotten hurt. They believed and had hope, but have their hopes dashed. Therefore, they question the sincerity of others. Future and people.

**“Nazareth” hits the
cynicism button
in Nathaniel.**

Our underlying prejudices rise up in us.

47 When Jesus *saw* Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

**Nathanael = true believer among
Israelites**

Waiting for the coming of the Messiah.

But how would he recognize him?

There were many spiritual counterfeits.

How could Nathanael know?

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Self Check Opportunity

Do I often expect everything to go wrong?

See the worst in people

Think everything is bad

Easy to be cynical – past experiences

The Way Out of Cynicism

Jesus wasn't and isn't cynical.

**With Jesus' death & Holy Spirit's
presence the world looks different.
It's all redeemable!**

**Reconciliation/Reconnection
available to all.**



I SEE YOU

