

**John 1:43-51**

**A friend who cares. John 1:43-45**

What is the most effective way to evangelize? Through relationships. Philip brought his friend Nathanael to Jesus. Philip wanted to bring his friend along with him on his journey- following Jesus. Philip, Andrew, and Peter were from Bethsaida, but Nathanael was from Cana. (John 21:2)

The name Nathanael means “gift of God”. It could be that Jesus changed Bartholomew’s name (Luke 6:12-16) to Nathanael as he had changed the names of other disciples.

When believers (overcomers) enter heaven, they receive a white stone with a new name on it. (Revelations 2:17)

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What does it mean to you that Jesus has a name for you that only you and He will know?

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**The man from Nowheresville. John 1:46**

Nathanael casts dispersions upon the fact that Jesus was from Nazareth. It was probably because of the smallness of the town and its perceived unimportance that made it an object of scorn. It was also looked down upon as having no Old Testament significance. Jesus being called a Nazarene and his followers called “the Nazarene Sect” (Acts 24:5 meant they were nobodies from nowhere. Interestingly, in the eyes of the Rome, all of Israel was considered a “backwater” area of the world.

In addition, the OT does not mention that Jesus would grow up in Nazareth.

Who are some well-known influential people you know that were from “nowhere”?

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**One with no deceit. John 1:47-48**

Jesus in His omniscience already knew Nathanael, and knew His heart. He knew that he lived his life with no guile or hypocrisy. He wasn’t just a Jew outwardly, but inwardly. (Romans 9:6-8). Salvation is a work of God within the heart, and is not a matter of physical lineage- they are born into the family of God by God’s working- just as he gave Abraham and Sarah a child, Isaac. Those who believe are children of promise.

What do you think are the reasons people act with hypocrisy? What are the results when found out or confronted? \_\_\_\_\_

Let us read one case of this in the book of Galatians. Galatians 2:11-14

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**Seen under a tree. John 1:48-49**

When Jesus said, "I saw you under the fig tree". He wasn't saying he physically saw him earlier that day. He was saying, I saw you and heard you in prayer, meditation and study.



Fig trees were and are seen as places to get alone and find solitude. In the time of Jesus many lived in one room homes. When someone wanted to be alone- they would sit under a fig tree. Fig trees are about 15 feet high and spread out up to 25 feet. They are the perfect place to find refreshment in mind, body, and soul. Nathaniel was a spiritual man. One who connected with God often- evidenced by Jesus' pronouncement concerning him. This could only be as He spent time alone with God. The same is true for us. Where is your place of solitude? \_\_\_\_\_ The following are essential.

***Bible Reading.*** Nathanael was a student of the scriptures evidenced in his exchange with Philip and Jesus. 2 Timothy 2:15 3:14-16

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***Meditation.*** Biblical meditation is not the same as what we know of the Hindu religion. The Hindus empty their mind. Christians are to fill their mind with God's word and all that He is. Psalm 1:1-2, 48:9, 77:12; 119: 27.

We are to turn God's word over and over again in our mind. Think of their application to our lives, their original context and meaning.

What do you meditate upon that is counter to what God's word tells us to do?

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***Prayer.*** As we know, prayer is communicating with God. He hears us only as we have believed in the LORD Jesus Christ. Through prayer we can touch anyone's life anywhere in the world.

In his humanity, Jesus prayed to his father. Hebrews 5:7

Our prayers are incense in God's throne room. Rev. 5:6-10

We are to pray in all circumstances for all things. Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thes. 5:17

What are some hinderances to prayer? 1 Peter 3:7, 12, 4:7; James 5:16, James 2:2-4

**See Heaven open John 1:50-51**

Quite simply Nathanael would see the fulfillment of Jacobs Ladder! Genesis 28:10-17