

JESUS THE ONE PROPHESED: WITNESS OF PHILIP JOHN 01:43-45

Introduction

Philip's discovery and witness of Jesus Christ was unmistakable. Jesus was the One prophesied in Scripture; He was the promised Messiah.

- I. Philip's experience (vv. 43-44).
- II. Philip's first concern: Nathanael (v. 45).
- III. Philip's conviction: Jesus was the One prophesied (v. 45).

I. *John 01:43–44 Jesus Christ, Seeking Man*

Philip's experience involved three significant points.

1. Jesus Himself went forth and sought Philip — Philip was not seeking Jesus. The initiative came entirely from Jesus. Jesus made the move to find and save Philip and to enlist Philip in His mission.
 - a. Jesus travelled a long distance to find Philip. Galilee was a long distance away, and note: the stated purpose for Jesus' going to Galilee was to find Philip. This is a picture of how far Christ will go to reach a soul. In order to reach a man, Christ will go any distance...
 - to any sinner, no matter how terrible or awful his sin. He will prick and prick at the mind and heart of a person.
 - to any place, no matter how hidden or shameful. He will send a thought or memory or person of righteousness to remind and warn a person.
 - to any condition, no matter how hopeless or helpless. He will see that the message of hope and help crosses a person's path.
 - to any person, no matter how shameful or guilty. He will see that a person hears the word of salvation if he repents, and hears the word of judgment if he does not repent.

Christ will go any distance to reach people. He will go to any place, to any condition, to any person. He will see that every person has some chance of turning to God. The word of deliverance can come from any number of sources: another person, a thought, a stirring of conscience, a memory, a writing, or just seeing nature (Rom 1 :20). Christ seeks every person, and He will go any distance to reach him, no matter the difficulty.

Thought 1. Every person must heed the *seeking* of Christ when His seeking is sensed. A person must respond immediately, for God's Spirit does not always strive or contend with man. When we first feel the pull to make a decision for Christ, if we put the

decision off for an hour or two, the pull fades and eventually leaves us completely. God's Spirit does not continue to strive or contend with us.

Gen 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

Prov 29:1 A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed - without remedy.

Thought 2. Every believer should be willing to go any distance to reach people, no matter how far or how deeply depraved the person may be. Too many in the world are considered and treated as *untouchables*: the alcoholic, immoral, poor, prisoner, lowly, diseased.

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Mat 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

Mat 25:36 "I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Remember that the person in prison is guilty of the most serious offenses and sins.)

- b. Jesus is seen fulfilling His mission in seeking and saving Philip. He came into the world for the very purpose of seeking and saving the lost.

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 18:37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

1 Tim 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst.

2. Jesus Himself called Philip. He called Philip to "follow Him" (See *Follow, Jn. 1:43; Cross and Discipleship, Lk. 9:23*).

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

John 10:27 "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

John 12:26 "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me."

3. The reason Philip was called by Jesus is apparently the reason verse 44 is mentioned. He was from the same town as Andrew and Peter. Philip longed for deliverance; he ached for the Messiah (“We have found the one...v. 45). Therefore, he had sought the company of those who were like-minded. He wanted the fellowship of those who sought godly deliverance. In search of such people he had met Andrew and Peter and had apparently become friends of theirs for some time. Therefore, it was only natural for Andrew and Peter to suggest that Jesus seek out Philip to become a disciple. The point is this: Philip was called by Jesus because...

- he had done something about the longing and aching for deliverance within his soul.
- he had sought the fellowship of those who were seeking for God’s salvation.
- he had placed himself where the message would reach him when it came.

Mat 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

Luke 6:21 “Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”

John 7:37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.”

Psa 107:9 For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Isa 55:1 “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”

JOHN 01:43 FOLLOW (AKOLOUTHEI)

To become a close companion, a close follower, a disciple. Two significant ideas are in the word: union and likeness, or cleaving and conformity. To follow Christ means...

- to cleave, to be united to Him, to be in close union with Him.
- to become like Him, to be conformed to Him. □

JOHN 01:44 BETHSAIDA

Jesus carried on a large ministry in Bethsaida, but the gospels tell us nothing about the city itself. The city was denounced by Jesus because of its rejection of Him (Mt. 11:21; Lk. 10:13). (Mk. 6:45; 8:22; Lk. 9:10; Jn. 12:21 other references to the city.) □

II. *John 01: 45 Witnessing*

Philip's first concern was to reach his friend Nathanael. Philip "found" Nathanael. Jesus had challenged Philip to "follow" Him, to become just like Him, and Philip did. He went out and did exactly what Jesus had done to him. Jesus had sought and found Him. Now, following the example of his Lord, he went out and found his friend Nathanael. Philip became a personal soul-winner just like his Lord.

John 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

2 Tim 2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

Acts 4:20 "For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 22:15 You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.

2 Cor 4:13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.

III. *John 01: 45 Philip's Conviction and Decision*

Philip's conviction: the One propheted was Jesus Christ. "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." Note four points.

1. Philip was extremely joyful. "We have found the One." There was jubilation, excitement and rejoicing beating in the chest of Philip. Jesus had met the needs and craving of his heart.

John 15:11 "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

John 16:24 "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Psa 16:11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Isa 12:3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

2. God's eternal plan for man and his world is recorded in Scripture. It is there for man's direction.

John 5:39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

3. Philip and Nathanael knew the Scriptures. They were familiar with the prophecies about the promised Messiah.

2 Tim 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

1 Pet 2:2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

1 Pet 2:3 Now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4. Jesus of Nazareth was definitely identified as Messiah. ■

LUKE 09: 23 CROSS AND DISCIPLESHIP

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Luke 09:23

People in Jesus' day knew what it meant to "take up" a cross. They saw scores of criminals bear the cross to the place where they were to be executed, and they witnessed scores of crucifixions, some even by the side of the roads that led in and out of the cities.

The cross does not mean merely bearing one's particular hardship in life, such as poor health, abuse, unemployment, invalid parents, an unsaved spouse, a wayward child. The cross is always an instrument of death, not just an object to carry or bear. The Christian is to die mentally and actively. He is to deny himself daily. He is to let the mind of Christ, the mind of humbling himself to the point of death, be in him and fill his thoughts every day (Phil. 2:5-8; 2 Cor. 10:3-5). He is to put his will, his desires, his wants, his ambitions to death. In their stead, he is to follow Jesus and to do His will all day long. Note this is not negative, passive behaviour. It takes positive, active behaviour to *will*, to *deny self*, to *take up* one's *cross*, to *follow* Christ. A person has to act, work, get to it, be diligent, consistent, and enduring in order to die to self.

There are several ways the believer dies to self. Romans 6:11-13 spells out the ways as clearly as they can be.

Rom 6:11-13 *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. (see Rom. 6:2-10)*

1. The believer reckons or counts himself crucified with Christ.

Rom 6:11a *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin.*

Rom 6:6 *For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.*

Gal 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Gal 5:24 *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*

2. The believer reckons or counts himself dead to sin, but alive to God.

Rom 6:11 *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

1 Pet 4:2 *As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.*

3. The believer does not let sin reign in his body.

Rom 6:12 *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.*

Col 3:5 *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

4. The believer does not yield the parts of his body to sin, as instruments of wickedness.

Rom 6:13a *Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness.*

Rom 8:13 *For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

5. The believer yields himself to God — as much as those who are raised from the dead are yielded to God.

Rom 6:13b *But rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life.*

Rom 12:1 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.*

Rom 13:14 *Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

6. The believer yields his body members as instruments of righteousness.

Rom 6:13c *And offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.*

Gal 5:16 *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

It should be noted that one's hardship or burden can bring a person to the place where the Lord can deal with him. It is then that the hardship becomes the cross and denial of self that Jesus is talking about. With an act of self-denial, the Christian can then count or reckon himself alive to God (Rom. 6:13). He can then follow Jesus. This is an act which can be described as committing all that one is and has to Christ. It is an act that needs to be repeated every day (see Mt. 10:38). □