



Theme: FOLLOWING JESUS (John 1:43-51)

Listen To It: The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “**Follow me.** Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 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.” “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” Jesus said, “You believe[a] because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” 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.” (NIV)

Think About It: Jesus sees us and knows us. He wants us to see Him and know Him.

Imagine for a moment you were going on a safari. You would be traveling through remote lands where wild animals roamed. You’d get to see lions, tigers, and elephants up close. So close you could touch them! Now, would you want to go on this safari alone, or would you want to follow someone who knew the lay of the land, the best places to go, and the places to stay away from?

Of course, you’d want a guide! You would want someone you could trust to show you the way. That’s exactly why Jesus came. When we read the end of the first chapter in the book of John, we learn a little about Jesus’ disciples.

The disciples were a group of men who really trusted Jesus. They would follow Him wherever He went to teach or visit sick people. They’d listen to his teachings. They were far from perfect, but they still loved Jesus and wanted to follow Him.

Jesus saw Philip one day and told Philip to come follow Him. Philip did so, and when he saw Nathanael, he told him about Jesus and to come follow Him. At first, Nathanael doubted. Jesus was from a town called Nazareth, a small, relatively unimportant place. He didn’t think anyone worth following could come from a place like that.

But when Jesus saw Nathanael, he told Nathanael that He had seen him long before and knew a lot about him. When Nathanael realized that Jesus really did know him and wanted him to follow him anyway, he understood he needed to join the other disciples.

Jesus told Nathanael that he believed because Jesus knew about him. But Jesus also told Nathanael “You will see greater things than that.” Nathanael and the other followers of Jesus were going to see and experience some amazing things...as long as they followed Jesus.

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