

'The Son of God and the Lord of Glory Series'

Sermons in the Gospel of John

Message 18 - 'Dismissal to Declaration' John 1: 45 - 49



As we continue in this opening chapter, we continue to see Jesus declared as the Son of God, and the Lord of glory, and then we continue to see how He directly intervenes by His grace in the lives of people so that they are changed forever. That working continues to this day, and even now, there are men and women, around the world who are being drawn into a right relationship with Jesus Christ. So it is with Nathanael, who turns to Jesus Christ and acknowledges Him as Lord and Saviour. We can consider three things:

A Loving Desire (v45) - Philip had a concern for Nathanael, and it was a clear loving desire that his friend should come to know the truth as well. From his encounter with Jesus Christ, Philip is stirred, and is ready to give the reason why he has now found hope. Philip became concerned for the advancing of the Gospel, and for the eternal condition of those around him. Out of his desire for Nathanael, it is clear that Philip is prepared to speak of the Lord Jesus Christ by appealing to the Scriptures. He understands that Christ is in all the Scriptures, and that He is the fulfilment of the law and the prophets. He is the treasure that runs through the entire Scriptures. As Philip would share with Nathanael, this Jesus was everywhere in the Old Testament. Can you see Him there? Ask the Lord to reveal it to you, there is so much of Him! This Jesus was the Messiah, He changes lives, and out of loving desire, Philip wants Nathanael to see it too. For those of us who know the Lord, this should be our desire for those around us, that they too would meet with Jesus.

A Lazy Dismissal (v46) - As Philip speaks of Jesus to Nathanael, he speaks of Jesus, as being of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. We must not misunderstand what Philip is saying here, he is not denying the divine origin of Jesus, or the virgin birth. Rather, Philip speaks of Jesus in this manner as was the custom of the day. How interesting then that Nathanael, out of all that Philip says to him, should pick up on this point! Nathanael retorts in a manner that attempts to burst Philip's enthusiasm, 'can anything good come out of Nazareth?' His reply also shows his inbuilt prejudice against the town itself. It is a lazy reply that seeks to dismiss Philip. Mark Philip's reply, it was simple, compelling, and disarmed Nathanael, as he just says, 'come and see'. He had openly explained his faith, and now met with such a reaction, Philip knew that Nathanael must come to the Lord himself. This was Philip's great testimony for in inviting Nathanael in this way, he was also underlining his absolute confidence in the truth and reality of Jesus Christ, and he was willing for it to be placed under scrutiny. Christ is a living Saviour, and it is still mightily at work today. People can speculate all they want, but it is no substitute for coming to personally examine the claims of Christ, and His person. You might have all manner of prejudices, of preconceptions, of well developed arguments, but I would urge you to come and see Jesus Christ, explore His claims, read the Word, and ask that God would deal with you, He will.

A Life-changing Declaration (v47-9) - Jesus speaks directly to Nathanael. This declaration of Nathanael's character by the Lord strikes him, and he realises that this Jesus was different. As the conversation continues it becomes clear that Christ knows Nathanael to His very core, even the private and personal information known only to him. This declaration changes Nathanael's life as it leaves him with no other response but to acclaim Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and King of Israel. It is an outburst of faith akin to 'My Lord, and my God'. He acknowledges Jesus as the Messiah, the anointed One.



Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs