

“Before I Loved Him”
John 1:43-51

Introduction:

1. Let's Open Our Bibles:
 - Back To John 1 - Where:
 - The Writer Of This Gospel:
 - Has Been Introducing Us To Jesus:
 - And To The First Full Week:
 - Of His Public Ministry!
2. The First Day:
 - Was A Day Of Deliberation:
 - In 1:19-28 - When John The Baptist:
 - Called On The People To:
 - Consider The One Who Was To Come After Him:
 - Whose “Shoe Latchet He Was Even Unworthy To Unloose!”
3. The Second Day:
 - Was A Day Of Direction:
 - In 1:29-34 - When Jesus Came To John:
 - And John Was Moved By The Lord:
 - To Direct The Attention Of Everyone Around Him:
 - To - “Behold” Jesus - As “The Lamb Of God, Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!”
4. The Third Day:
 - Was A Day Of Decision:
 - In 1:35-42 - When Two Disciples Of John:
 - Became Disciples Of Jesus:
 - Because They Believed In Him:
 - And Wanted To Be With Him!
5. Well - As We Near The End Of:
 - This First Chapter:
 - In 1:43-51 - We Come To The Fourth Day:
 - Of Jesus First Full Week Of Ministry:
 - Which Was - We Can Call It:
 - A Day Of Desire!
 - Because - On This Day:
 - We See The Desire & Will Of Jesus:
 - To Fulfill The Work:
 - That He Was Sent To This World:
 - To Accomplish!
6. And So - Starting With 1:43 - Let's See What Happened:
 - On This Fourth Day!
 - 1:43-51 - “The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. / Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. / Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. / And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. / Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! / Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. / Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. / Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. / And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man!”
7. Now - The Day Before These Verses:
 - On Day 3 - We Learned:
 - What It Means & What It Takes:
 - To Follow Jesus!
 - Even As Andrew & John Did!

- But - In These Verses:
 - On Day 4 - We See How It Is:
 - That People Can Even:
 - Begin To Follow Jesus!
 - Like Philip & Nathaniel!
 - And Like You & Me!
- On The Third Day - We Saw **How**:
 - To Follow Jesus:
 - From Our Perspective!
- But - On The Fourth Day:
 - We Will See Even **Why**:
 - We Can Follow Jesus:
 - From His Perspective!

8. And - The Main Reason **Why**:
- **Anyone** Can Follow Jesus:
 - Is Because - Before You Or I:
 - Ever Loved Jesus - Or Even:
 - Could Love Jesus:

1. He Loved Us! (You)

- In 1 John 4:19 - We Find These Words:
 - “We Love Him, Because He First Loved Us!”
 - And This Is What We Find In:
 - The First Few Words About That Fourth Day!
 - When In 1:43 - John Tells Us That:
 - “The day following Jesus **would** go forth into Galilee!”
 - That Is - It Was:
- His Desire - To Leave:
 - Those Days Of Preparation Behind Him:
 - And - To Move On To:
 - The Work That Was Ahead Of Him!
 - It Was His Will:
 - To Head Back To Galilee:
 - For He Had Work To Do There!
 - His Father’s Work!
 - Now - Galilee Was A Large Region:
 - In The Northern Part Of Israel!
 - It Didn’t Just Consist Of:
 - The Land Around The Sea Of Galilee:
 - But It Stretched From That Sea To The Mediterranean Sea!
 - From “Sea To Shining Sea!”
 - And - For Jesus - Galilee:
 - Meant Home For Him!
 - He Was Raised In Nazareth - Which Was Also In Galilee!
 - And Galilee Would Have Been:
 - Familiar Territory For Him!
 - And His Desire Was To Get Back There:
 - And Start Working & Preaching:
 - That The “Kingdom Of Heaven Was At Hand!”
 - But - Before He Left For Galilee:
 - We Also See:
- His Determination - To Leave:
 - Noone Behind - Who Were His!
 - Because - Even Though His Desire:
 - Was To “Go Forth Into Galilee!”
 - There Was Someone:
 - He Wanted To Take With Him!
 - There Was Someone:

- He Did Not Want To Leave Behind!
- Philip!
- And - In This:
 - We See The Love Of Jesus!
 - That Ron Hamilton Once Wrote:
 - About The Desire & Determination:
 - Of Christ - To Not Leave Us Behind In Our Darkness & In Our Sin!
 - Lost In The Darkness, I Stumbled Alone,
Far From The Sunlight Of Day.
Then, Jesus Found Me And Made Me His Own!
He Drove My Darkness Away!
 - Before I Loved Him, He Loved Me!
Before I Found Him, He Found Me!
Before I Sought Him, He Sought For Me!
Yes, Jesus Cares For Me!
 - And This Is What We Find Taking Place:
 - On This Fourth Day Of Jesus Ministry!
 - Before Philip Loved Jesus:
 - Jesus Loved Philip!
 - And - This Is True For You!
 - Before You Ever Loved Him - And:
 - Before You Ever Could Love Him:
 - He Loved You!
 - He Had A Desire For You - And:
 - He Had A Determination:
 - To Not Leave You Behind!
 - So - He Came To You In His Sovereign Grace!
 - And Now - Because He Loved You!
 - And - Because He *First* Loved You:
 - You Can Now Love Him - And:
 - Follow Him - Even As Philip Did!
 - Before We Loved Him:
 - He Loved Us! But Then We Also See That:
 - Before We Found Him:

2. *He Found Us! (You)*

- Because - What Else Are We Told In 1:43?
 - That Jesus - "Findeth Philip!"
 - Now - When You "Find" Something:
 - Its Usually Because:
 - You Were Looking & Searching For It!
 - Sometimes - You Might Find Something:
 - That You Weren't Looking For!
 - But - That Is Never The Case With Jesus!
 - He Found Philip - Because:
 - He Was Looking For Philip!
 - This Meeting With Philip - Was:
- Not An Accident!
 - It Didn't Happen By Chance!
 - He Was Seeking For Philip:
 - Even Though Philip Was Not:
 - Actively Seeking For Him!
 - Now - Philip - Like The Other Two Men:
 - Was Probably Thinking About:
 - Spiritual Matters! After All:
 - He Went Out To See & Hear John The Baptist!
 - Because - He Too Didn't Have All The Answers:
 - To His Questions!

- But - It Was Then That:
 - Jesus Came To Him & Found Him!
 - What A Surprise & What A Delight!
 - This Meeting With Philip:
 - Was Not An Accident - But It Was:
- An Appointment!
 - An Appointment By Jesus:
 - To Call Philip To Himself!
 - 1:43 - "Follow Me!" - Jesus Says!
 - Jesus Wanted Philip:
 - To Be His Disciple!
 - Jesus Wanted Philip:
 - To Be His Follower!
 - It Was Jesus Who Wanted Philip - To:
 - Believe In Him!
 - Submit To Him! And To:
 - Commit To Him!
 - It Was Jesus Who Found Philip:
 - Because It Was Jesus:
 - Who Wanted Philip!
 - And - This Is True:
 - Whenever Jesus Finds Someone - And:
 - Calls Someone:
 - To Be Saved!
 - When You Come To Jesus:
 - It Is No Accident! It Is The Result:
 - Of A Divine Appointment!
 - Because - Jesus Himself:
 - Wants You!
 - Not Because Of Anything Good Or Fine He Saw In You!
 - And That Is Why:
 - Jesus Himself - First Found You!
 - Before You Loved Him:
 - He Loved You!
 - Before You Found Him:
 - He Found You!
 - But Now - Because He Found You:
 - You Can Follow Him - Even As Philip Did!
 - You Can Follow Him By:
 - Believing In Him!
 - Submitting Yourself To Him!
 - And - Committing Yourself To Him:
 - With All Of Your Heart!
 - He Found You - Because:
 - He Wanted You & Loved You! But Then - We Can Also See From These Verses That:
 - Before We Sought Him:

3. ***He Sought Us! (You)***

- In 1:45-46 - After Jesus Found Philip:
 - It Was Philip's Turn:
 - To Go Find Someone:
 - For Jesus!
 - "Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. / And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see!"
 - Now - Even Though It Was Philip:
 - Who Went Out To Find His Friend:
 - Nathanael - We See That:

- He Does So In The Same Spirit As Jesus Did!

- So - In Effect:
 - Jesus Was Seeking Nathaniel:
 - Through His New Disciple:
 - Philip!
 - When Philip Sought Out Nathaniel:
 - He Did So:
- Intentionally!
 - Even As Jesus Sought Him Out!
 - It Wasn't An Accident - But:
 - An Appointment - Set By God:
 - Between These Two Men!
 - Also - When Philip Sought Out Nathanael:
 - He Did So:
- Informatively!
 - He Couldn't Wait To Tell Him:
 - What He Had Learned About Jesus!
 - "We Have Found Him!"
 - Who?
 - The One That Who They Had Heard About:
 - From The Bible:
 - Their Whole Lives!
 - Because - All Throughout The Old Testament:
 - The Messiah / Christ Could Be Found!
 - In Person!
 - In Pictures & Types!
 - In Prophecies!
 - And - Philip Had Found This All:
 - In Jesus!
 - Now - For Philip & All Of Jesus New Disciples:
 - There Was Still Much More To Learn About Jesus!
 - But - Philip And The Rest:
 - Were Ready To Learn & Grow:
 - Wherever Christ Would Lead Them!
 - What A Witness Philip Was:
 - For Jesus!
 - He Told His Friend About Him:
 - Intentionally!
 - Informatively! Also:
- Insistently!
 - When Philip Told Nathanael About Jesus:
 - Nathanael Was Skeptical!
 - He Asked - "Can There Any Good Thing Come Out Of Nazareth?"
 - Not Exactly Sure Why:
 - Nathanael Thought So Little About Nazareth!
 - Could Be - Because He Was From Cana - Just A Few Miles Away From Nazareth!
 - Knew Of Its Size & Insignificance:
 - As A Rival Town! Or:
 - Being Well-Versed In Scripture:
 - Thought - Nothing Significant About Nazareth In Terms Of The Messiah!
 - Whatever The Reason:
 - Philip Insists - And Echos The Words Of Jesus Himself:
 - From 1:39 - When He Simply Says:
 - "Come And See!"
 - Though He Didn't Have An Answer:
 - To Nathanael's Objection:
 - He Just Invited His Friend To "Come And See" Jesus:

- So That He Might Experience The Same Welcome That He Had!

- But - Through Philip:
 - We See Christ:
 - Seeking Out Another One Of:
 - His Lost Sheep! Because:
 - Before Nathanael Loved Him:
 - He Loved Nathanael!
 - Before Nathanael Found Him:
 - He Found Nathaniel!
 - Before Nathanael Sought Him:
 - He Sought For Nathanael:
 - Even Through Philip:
 - As Philip Channeled The Loving Spirit Of Jesus:
 - To His Friend!
 - And - Because He Sought Him Out:
 - Nathanael Could "Come And See" Jesus!"
 - And - The Same Is True For You!
 - Whoever Led You To Christ:
 - Was The Searchlight Of Jesus:
 - Seeking You Out!
 - And - Because Jesus Sought For You:
 - You Could "Come And See" Him!
 - What A Wonder Salvation Is!
 - You Can Come To Christ:
 - Because He First:
 - Loved, Found, And Sought You:
 - To Be His Own!
 - But Even More:

4. ***He Knew Us! (You)***

- He Knew Us - Before We Knew:
 - Anything About Him! And:
 - He Knew Everything About Us!
 - Even As Jesus Knew Nathanael!
 - As We See In 1:47-48:
 - "Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! / Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee!"
 - We Learn From These Verses:
 - That - Even Before Jesus Ever Met Nathanael:
 - Jesus Knew:
- His Nature!
 - Even As - "An Israelite – In Whom Is No Guile!"
 - Jesus Uses These Words For A Reason!
 - Just Like I Can Say That I'm Thankful & Proud To Be:
 - An American! Which I Am!
 - This Is How Jesus Describes Nathanael!
 - He Was Probably Quite The Jewish Patriot!
 - But - For The Jew - It Went Deeper:
 - Than Just National Pride!
 - It Meant That He Was Probably:
 - Deeply Devoted, Discerning, And Disciplined:
 - When It Came To His Religion As Well!
 - So - Jesus Knew Nathanael To Be:
 - A True Israelite! But Even More:
 - One - "In Whom Is No Guile!"
 - No Deceit Or Subtlety!
 - Now - If You Remember:

- The First One Called Israel:
 - Was Jacob - Whose Name Meant:
 - Supplanter / Usurper!
 - And - He Was Well Named!
 - He Used Cunning & Deception Several Times In His Life To Get Ahead!
- So - In A Sense - Jesus Called Nathanael:
 - A True Israelite In Whom Was No Jacob!
 - He Was All Israel!
 - Jesus Knew Him To Be A Sincere & Serious & Spiritual Man:
 - And That He Was, At Least, On The Right Track!
 - Because That Track Was Leading Him To Jesus!
- And - As A Sincere & Honest Man:
 - Nathanael Answered:
 - In 1:48 - "Whence Knowest Thou Me?"
 - And - When Jesus Answered:
 - He Proved He Knew Even More About Him! Even:
- His Needs!
 - His Deepest Needs!
 - 1:48 - "Before That Philip Called Thee, When Thou wast Under The Fig Tree, I Knew Thee!"
 - Not Sure How Long "Before" This Was!
 - But - Could Have Been:
 - When Nathanael Was At Home - Under His Prayer Tree - Wrestling With God In Prayer! (Stump)
 - Whatever He Had Shared:
 - With God - In The Privacy Of That Moment:
 - Jesus Knew!
 - And This Hit Home With Nathanael!
- And - This is Just How Deeply:
 - Jesus Knows Each One Of Us!
 - He Knows You:
 - Individually!
 - Personally! And:
 - Deeply!
 - He Knows Your:
 - Innermost Thoughts - And:
 - Your Deepest Needs!
 - And - Because He Alone Knows Them:
 - He Alone Can Meet Them:
 - Even As He Met The Needs Of Nathanael!
 - It Was Before You Ever Loved Jesus:
 - That Jesus Loved You!
 - It Was Before You Ever Found Jesus:
 - That Jesus First Found You!
 - It Was Before You Ever Sought Jesus:
 - That Jesus Sought For You! And:
 - It Was Before You Ever Knew Jesus:
 - That Jesus Knew You!
 - And Now - Because He Knew You & Knows:
 - Everything About You:
 - You Can Now Believe In Him!

Conclusion:

1. And This Is How Nathanael Responded To Jesus:
 - In 1:49 - "Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel!"
 - Nathanael Believed In Jesus:
 - And Confessed These Truths:
 - About Jesus!
 - That Jesus Was:

- The Promised Son!
 - The Messiah & Savior Of The World!
 - But Also:
 - That Jesus Was:
 - The Promised King!
 - And His King & His Master!
 - And - Upon His Belief:
 - Jesus Promised Him Even:
 - Greater Blessing!
2. Which We Find In The Last Two Verses Of This Chapter:
- 1:50-51 - “Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. / And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man!”
 - God Rewards The Faith Of Man:
 - When That Faith Rest In:
 - Jesus Christ!
 - And Here Jesus Promises To Nathanael:
 - That He Will See Even “Greater Things” Than:
 - What He Just Saw:
 - In Jesus & His Knowledge!
 - And - Using Another Reference:
 - To The Life Of The First Man Called Israel:
 - Jacob - He Tells Nathanael:
 - That What Jacob Saw:
 - In A Dream:
 - He Will See:
 - With His Own Two Eyes!
3. In Genesis 28:12 - Jacob Dreamed:
- “And behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it!”
 - And - In That Dream:
 - God Promised To Bless Jacob:
 - Even As He Had Blessed Abraham & Isaac!
 - And Here - Jesus Is Telling Us:
 - That He Is The Ladder:
 - That Stretches Between:
 - Heaven And Earth!
 - That He Is The One:
 - Through Whom:
 - All The Messages & Messengers Of Heaven:
 - Now Come!
4. Jesus Rewarded Nathanael’s Faith:
- By Promising Him That:
 - He Would See - Even More Than:
 - His Fore-Father Jacob:
 - A Connection To Heaven:
 - Through Him!
 - He Would See:
 - The Confirmation:
 - Of Jesus’ Claims:
 - Through Signs & Miracles - Starting In The Next Chapter!
 - He Would See:
 - The Closeness:
 - Of Jesus With His Heavenly Father:
 - Through His Prayer And Submission!
5. Because - In Jesus:
- Both - The House Of God (Bethel) - And:
 - The Gate Of Heaven:

- Has Come To Earth!
 - 6. And This Too:
 - Is What You Are Blessed With:
 - When You Believe In Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Savior!
 - Heaven Itself Has:
 - Opened Itself Up To You!
 - Jesus Will Reward Your Faith:
 - With Greater Confirmation:
 - Of His Words - And:
 - With Greater Closeness:
 - With Him:
 - Than You Ever Thought Possible!
7. But - It All Started Because:
 - "He First Loved You!" (1 John 4:19)
 - Before You Loved Him:
 - He Loved You!
 - Before You Found Him:
 - He Found You!
 - Before You Sought Him:
 - He Sought For You!
 - And He Knew You!
 - And - When You Believe In Him:
 - He Will Bless You!
 - Yes - Jesus Cares For You!

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