

A Super-Sized Choice

John 1:43-51

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Today: A Super-Sized Choice

Next Week: A Super-Sized Adventure

*“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.
“Come and see,” said Philip.*

—John 1:46

Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.”

—John 1:49

Nathanael of Hebrew origin meaning “gift of God.”

1. Philip’s Testimony

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.”

—John 1:43-45

2. Nathaniel’s Doubts

“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.

John 1:46

3. Meeting Jesus

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.” “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

—John 1:47-48

There was a Jewish figure of speech, to be under the fig tree meant to study the Torah.

Do you know why the Torah is compared to a fig tree? The fruit of most trees - the olive tree, the vine, and the palm tree - is collected all at once, while that of the fig tree is collected a bit at a time. Likewise with the Torah, today a person learns a little, and tomorrow she shall learn much, for the Torah cannot be learned in a single year or two. (Babylonian Talmud 53b)

4. Confession of Faith

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."
—John 1:49

5. Greater things

Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."
—John 1:50-51

John 1:51 may refer to Jacob's ladder, see Genesis 28:12

Two days later, Jesus traveled to Philip's hometown of Cana and performed His first miracle. (John 2:1-11)

Conclusion: What about you and me?

We have just heard Nathanael's story, but we must get our own story.

Have you heard testimonies from others?

Have you met the Lord?

Do you want your life to count?

Do you want to know God's presence in your life?

Do you want a fresh start?

Maybe today is your Bethel, your time to meet the Lord.

Today may be your Super-Sized Choice.