

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday after Epiphany – January 17, 2021

“Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus, son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ Nathaniel said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’” – John 1:44–46

Philip gives us a wonderful example of how to talk about Jesus in a world that doesn't know him. How can you and I be the kind of person Philip was? Eager to share the good news with any and all who would listen? Jesus himself models this for us in the passage that's just before this one. Jesus noticed a couple of men sort of tagging along behind him. Verse 38 says, “Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, ‘What are you seeking?’”

These are the first words Jesus speaks in John's Gospel, and they come in the form of a question. What are you looking for? What do you really want? It's an open-ended question that Jesus is modeling for us; the kind of question that gives people an opportunity to share what's important to them. Everyone has a story, and Jesus wants to be part of it.

If we're going to be effective witnesses for Christ, it's not just about knowing His story and knowing our own story... It's also about knowing the story of the person that you're trying to reach... their joys and sorrows, their successes and failures, their hopes and dreams. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

Notice that Philip doesn't have all the answers before he invites his friend Nathanael to meet Jesus. Now, Nathanael is a skeptic, but notice that Philip doesn't try to argue him into believing. Then Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” To which Philip responded, “Come and see.” No pressure or guilt here. Actually, meeting Jesus was what changed Nathanael's mind. Philip's role was simply to pray for him and invite him. That's something all of us can do. We can pray daily for the one person that we will reach out to and lead to Jesus. That's how it works.

So, who is your one? Who is that one person you are dying to have meet and know Jesus? What are you waiting for? Tell them to “Come and See!”

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