

Under the Fig Tree



John 1:43–51 · This week: We Have Found the Messiah, John 1

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me** lesson 03, “We Have Found the Messiah,” on Gospel Library

START

When Philip told his friend Nathanael about Jesus, Nathanael asked, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:46).

READ TOGETHER

Nathanael came from Cana, a village a few miles from Nazareth (John 21:2). Philip had just been called by Jesus himself with two words, “Follow me” (John 1:43).

JOHN 1:45–49

45 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.

46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! **48** 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.

49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Philip skipped the argument and used the words Jesus had used the day before, “Come and see”

(John 1:46).

As Nathanael came near, Jesus said, “Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” (John 1:47). Guile means trickery. Jesus also told him, “when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee” (John 1:48).

John never tells us what Nathanael was doing under that tree. Jesus had seen him there, and Nathanael answered, “Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel” (John 1:49).

Jesus promised him, “thou shalt see greater things than these” (John 1:50). He knows each of us that well, and he has greater things ahead for us as we follow him.

TALK ABOUT IT

Jesus knew where Nathanael had been before they met. How does it help you to know that the Savior knows you that well?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Nathanael doubted that anything good could come from Nazareth. After one conversation with Jesus, who already knew him, he called him the Son of God.