

## COME AND SEE.

John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. <sup>45</sup> 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." <sup>46</sup> "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. <sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." <sup>48</sup> "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup> Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." <sup>50</sup> Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." <sup>51</sup> He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

I was driving home the other day going north on the 215. It was about noon on one of those days when it couldn't decide whether it wanted to rain or not. You couldn't miss it. In the northern sky was a beautiful, huge rainbow. I almost wanted to stop to look at it and maybe take a picture. I wanted to say, "Look at that beautiful thing." But the problem was that there was no one in the car to tell. Not long after that Kate and Alison were at our house for the day and a sleep over. Several times we heard, "Grandma, grandpa, you've got to see this. Come and see." You could hear the excitement. There were also a few times that I couldn't wait to tell someone about something only to find out that they didn't get as excited as I thought they would. It's like the joke that you think is really funny, but no one else does.

Somewhere in between all this excitement and all these reactions are Peter and Andrew, Jesus' first disciples and then Philip. He couldn't wait to tell Nathanael that he had found the Messiah, the Christ and that Christ wanted him to be one of his disciples too. Nathanael's reaction was probably not what Philip hoped it would be. Rather than arguing Philip simply said, "**COME AND SEE.**" As simple as that sounds that is the very assignment that Jesus has given to us as members of his Holy Christian Church. We can say it too whenever and wherever the opportunity presents itself. "**COME AND SEE.**"

1. Jesus was choosing his disciples and so far there were only three, but soon there would be four. As Philip told Nathanael that he had found the Christ, and told him who the Messiah was, Nathanael was confused for several reasons. Jesus was from Nazareth in Galilee. That was a Jewish hick town. It was not a college town or a place known for wisdom, philosophy. They were just plain people. Besides there was nothing in the Old Testament that said anything about the Messiah being from or even visiting Nazareth. Nathanael's reaction was pretty much, "Yea, right! You won't find anything good there." He might have been right except for the fact that Philip was right too. He couldn't wait to tell Nathanael what he had found out about Jesus. You don't hear him coming up with arguments to try to convince Nathanael of something he didn't want to believe. He simply said, "**COME AND SEE.**" Nathanael came and saw and he was not disappointed.

Think about telling someone about Jesus. The chances are that even though you know how much Jesus means to you, you're probably not going to get the excited reaction that you might want to see. Too often that's where we stop. You figure they don't want to listen so you don't give them anything to listen to. You think you have to convince them of something that only the Holy Spirit can convince people of. Your job is just as simple as Philip's was. "**COME AND SEE.**"

2. Nathanael didn't know who Jesus was or at least he knew very little about him. He

did know about the coming Messiah. Jesus knew Nathanael, though. In fact, he knew him before he even met him. Nathanael had been under a fig tree and he was probably not there just to get out of the sun. Fig trees and vine branches were often shady places for people to rest and meditate. For many that fig tree was a good place to study and reflect on God's Word and pray to God. That is probably what Nathanael was doing there. But it was a secret place for him. Jesus saw him there, but Nathanael didn't see Jesus. Jesus even knew what was in Nathanael's heart. Jesus knew this was one of God's people waiting for the coming Messiah. Nathanael knew about the promises God made. He waited, like many Jews for the Messiah, the Christ.

Nathanael couldn't believe that Jesus actually knew who he was and knew what he was like. He knew that he was seeing something miraculous in the person Philip had told him about. Nathanael was convinced. He was sure that Jesus was the Son of God and the King that was to come from David's family, the eternal King of Israel. Nathanael was convinced. Is that all it took? Was it all just a simple "**COME AND SEE**" followed by a brief discussion with Jesus and a description of Nathanael's personality? Jesus knew there was a lot more to learn and a lot more to see.

3. Nathanael would see much greater things than what he had already seen. Jesus talked about seeing the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man with heaven open so they could go in and out. Do you remember something like that happening at another place and time in the Bible? Look in Genesis 28 and check out the dream that Jacob had before he went to tend sheep for his uncle Laban. God's message meant that God would be with him to bless him and give him all the things that had been promised to Abraham, Isaac, and now Jacob, called Israel. In essence Jesus was saying, "You're going to see God's whole plan of salvation being worked out because I'm the One who can do it and the One who will do it.

Of course it took a while before Nathanael and the rest of the disciples understood God's plan and the way Jesus would complete the work. You know about it. You know about Jesus' perfect life that gives you a perfect record to present to God. You know about his death that paid for your sins and for all sin in the history of the world. You know that he rose from the dead on Easter morning. Because of that you know what peace with God is. You know what it means to have a solid foundation to build your life on while most people just think that right now we're standing on something between an earthquake and quicksand. You know what you know because over the centuries since Jesus completed his work Christians have kept saying, "**COME AND SEE.**" Isn't that exciting? Don't you think that's something that everyone ought to know? Can you think of someone that you can talk to and simply say, "**COME AND SEE.**" You don't need to worry about the reaction. You don't even have to convince anyone. All you have to do is to invite someone to **COME AND SEE** the Savior you already know. Then together you can keep watching the way God shows you more about what it means to be loved and forgiven and guided by the only true God. Invite someone else to know what you know and what you are still learning. **COME AND SEE.**