

NATHANAEL

⁴³ *The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."* ⁴⁴ *Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.* ⁴⁵ *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."* ⁴⁶ *"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.* ⁴⁷ *When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."* ⁴⁸ *"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."* ⁴⁹ *Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."* ⁵⁰ *Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that."* ⁵¹ *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."*

John 1:43-51

I. Time for the "Wow factor."

A. God is bringing forth his Nathanaels from under their fig trees.

B. God's pearls made in secret are ready for viewing.

C. Four "wows"

1. Nathanael

2. The centurion (Matthew 8:10)

¹⁰ *When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found*

anyone in Israel with such great faith.”

3. The woman with the alabaster container (Mark 14:9)

⁹ “Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

4. The Syro-Phoenecian woman. (Matthew 15:28)

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

II. The Nathanael generation.

A. Nathanaels are the Father’s gift to his son.

B. “Israelites in whom there is no Jacob at all.”

C. Dolos—no falsity, deceit, trickery, or cunning. No manipulation, witchcraft, or hook to seduce and catch. Nothing conniving, controlling, no private agendas, or devious plans.

D. Nathanael is sincere, not sinless, gentle, guileless, no mixture, no wish to impose on others.

E. Their guile has been drawn out of them under their fig trees where they have wrestled with God face-to-face.

F. Nathanaels are funny, winsome, theologically and biblically literate.

G. Nathanaels are balanced, unmixed scribes of the Kingdom that can interpret both old and new. (Matthew 13:52 KJV)

⁵² Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe [which is] instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man [that is] an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure [things] new and old.

- H. Nathanaels are promised the greatest sights of all time, because they're prepared to see them.
- I. Jesus can speak in remez code to his Nathanaels.
- J. Nathanaels are true Israelites who can identify the king of Israel and the dream of the famous father of all Israelites. (Genesis 28:12)

¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

III. Time for an open heaven.

- A. It's time to open all the gifts God has for you, and not play with the box or the paper.
- B. Jesus is the living link between heaven and earth; Christ is the Father's ladder—the locus of revelation, the point of connection—between heaven and earth.
- C. Jesus incarnates the dream of Jacob, and Nathanael is going to see it himself.
- D. In Christ, the sense and reality of separation between heaven and earth through sin is swept away.
- E. Life under the fig tree is only the beginning. You have no idea what's coming!
- F. Lessons from the sea of Galilee / Nathanaels have been trained over time to catch men. In patience, practice, timing, persistence, and determination. They know their bait, their target, and they do their work with great hope and anticipation.