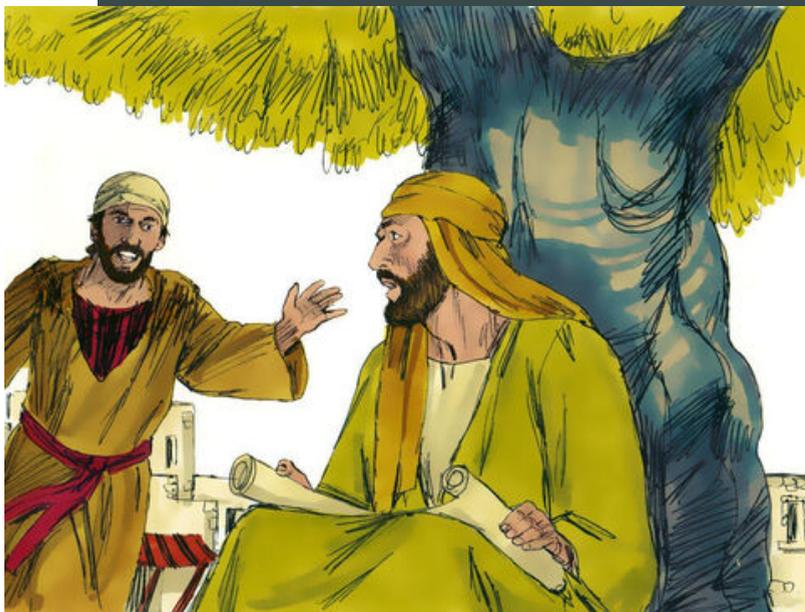

**EDITED AND
ABRIDGED
DRAMATIZED
STORY**

**FROM A SERMON
OF
REV. WILLIAM
BRANHAM**

NATHANAEL



PICTURE CREDIT: SWEET PUBLISHING

Jesus Christ the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever

The first one we want to start off with here is Andrew, a fisherman. He'd found him, and perhaps he went back and told his brother Simon, "Come see Who we've found. We've found the Messiah."

Now, they were looking for a Messiah. They thought John was the Messiah. Many people believed he was.

I can imagine Peter saying, "Now, just a minute." (Of course, his name was Simon then.) He said, "Now, Andrew, you've probably gone off on a deep end somewhere on some kind of a tantrum. I know when the Messiah comes... My old father told me; He said, 'Son.' One day when we were setting down by the lake after fishing; I can see his grey hair, and he said, 'Simon, my boy, your

dad has always longed to see the day when the Messiah would arise. But I'm getting old now, and I perhaps won't see it. But Simon, don't you forget this, that when He comes, there'll be many things taking place. You must remember, Simon, you must be Scriptural. The Bible says, our readings tell us, Moses the prophet said, when the Messiah comes He will be a prophet; for it is written in the book of the law, "The Lord your God shall raise up a prophet liken unto me." And remember, He will not be a—just a fancy person; but He will be a plain man, a prophet, a great prophet, a God-prophet, when He comes. And you've been well instructed in that."

So when Andrew came and told him, "Come, see Jesus of Nazareth. He is that prophet,"

I can imagine Simon saying, "Now, just a minute. I don't know what's happened to you, but surely you haven't forgotten the teaching of the Scripture. But just for old times' sake I'll go with you."

When he walked up into the Presence of the Lord Jesus, Jesus looked him in the face and said, “Your name is Simon, and you are the son of Jonas.”

Peter recognized it right quick that that must be Him. Not only did He know who he was, but He knew who his father was.

There was one standing there by the name of Philip. It thrilled his heart in such a way he had to go tell his friend about it. There’s something about knowing Jesus Christ. When you ever really find the real Christ, you can’t set still. You’ve got to tell it somewhere.

So we see Philip taking off around the hill. If you were ever in Palestine, where Jesus was preaching around to where his friend Nathanael lived, it’s about fifteen miles. No doubt he ran around that mountain.

I can see him knock at the door and perhaps Mrs. Nathanael came to the door. He didn’t have time to have much kind of a greeting.

He said, “Where’s Nathanael?”

“Oh, he’s back into the orchard back there, a-praying, back in the orchard.”

So out to the orchard he went. And do you know where he found him? Under a tree, praying. I believe, Philip being a Christian man, he didn’t interrupt him when he was praying. After he got through his prayer and said, “Amen,” he got up and dusted off his clothes, and just then he looked around and saw his friend Philip.

He said, “Philip, I’m glad to meet you again. Have you come to visit me, my brother?”

Well, there’s something about it. When a man gets a hold of God, and God gets a hold of a man, he went right straight to the point.

Philip said, “Come, see Who we have found. Come and see Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph.”

Now, you know, Nathanael was a staunch orthodox believer, he said, “Now, wait a

minute, Philip. I've known you to be a good solid man. But there... Could there come any good thing out of Nazareth?"

Now, I think he gave him the best answer that any man could give. Don't set home and criticize it; "Come, see."

Oh, I imagine maybe Nathanael said, "Now, wait. What organization did He come through?"

But he didn't try to say, "Now, wait a minute. We know if the Messiah comes, He will come to Caiaphas, the high priest. He's the greatest religious in the country." Or, "We know He'd come to the bishop, or the general overseer, somebody like that."

But God goes where He wants to. He comes to the poor, and the fishermen, and in a manger, and the shepherds, and so forth.

As they went on their way, I can imagine them talking, "Now, Nathanael, you are a well versed scholar. Tell me, Nathanael, what

is this Messiah to be, that's promised us? How will we know Him, according to the laws?"

Nathanael said, "Why, He will be a prophet, 'cause Moses said, 'The Lord your God shall raise up a prophet liken unto me.' He will be a God-prophet."

He said, "You remember that old fisherman that you bought the fish from that time down on the river and he couldn't sign his name for your receipt?"

"Yep."

"You know his name was Simon."

"Yes."

"His brother brought him to the meeting yesterday before I left, and as soon as he walked up in the Presence of Jesus, He looked at him and said, 'Your name is Simon.' And you remember his dad?"

"Sure."

“And He said, ‘Your father’s name is Jonas.’”
He said, “It wouldn’t surprise me if He didn’t tell you who you were when you come up in the meeting.”

“Aw, I’ll have to see it.”

Finally they arrived. Maybe he walked into the prayer line where Jesus was praying for the sick. Maybe he set out in the audience. I do not know. However, when Jesus fastened his eyes on him, He said, “Behold, an Israelite, in whom there’s no guile.”

How did He know him?

“Oh,” you say, “the way he dressed.”

Oh, no. All of them dressed the same, the easterners: wore turbans. He could have been a Greek; He could have been Arabian. They wore turbans and loose-hanging garments. It astonished him so, till he stopped and said, “Rabbi (‘Rabbi’ means teacher), Rabbi, when did You ever know me? Why, You never seen

me in your life. How do You know that I'm an Israelite and an honest and just man?"

I can see those eyes look back at him again, and say, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the tree, I saw you."

That was the day before, and fifteen miles around the mountains. What did this fellow say?

He said, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God. You're the King of Israel."

Sure, he was taught. He knew what to believe. He knew that was the prophet that Moses spoke of. "Thou art the Son of God. Thou art the king of Israel."

Jesus said, "Because I've told you this, you believe now?"

He said, "Yea."

Jesus said, "Then you'll see greater than this, for you'll see Angels descending and ascending."

Source:

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