

'The Son of God and the Lord of Glory Series'

Sermons in the Gospel of John

Message 17 - 'The Call to Follow' John 1: 43 - 45



As we continue in the Lord's first week of ministry, we continue to see the work of grace as people are drawn to Him. There is great simplicity in the Gospel, and we have here an occasion when the Lord Jesus Christ simply said to Philip, 'follow me'. With Philip we can see that the Lord directly intervened in his life and called Him to follow. In the Lord's dealings with Philip, we can see the Lord move upon his life, however, we can also see a recurrence of the reaction that has been seen in the lives of Andrew and John. We can consider three things:

Conversion - Jesus Himself seeks out Philip. Philip is not seeking Jesus, the initiative is wholly on the part of the Lord. Jesus worked in the life of Philip to draw him to Himself, and to fit him for service, and in the ongoing work. Jesus travels a distance to find Philip. It shows to us the fact that Christ is committed to seeking and saving the lost, to reaching lost souls. He is the seeking Saviour. See also that in seeking and saving Philip, the Saviour, Jesus once again displays His mission in this world. His purpose to seek and save the lost, Luke 19:10, *'for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost'*. Notice that Jesus Himself called Philip to follow Him. This was a common call of the Saviour. When we are speaking about following Jesus, it is not a glib, light-hearted wandering; rather it is the giving of oneself to Him. To follow Christ means to be united to Him. To follow Christ means to cleave to Him. To follow Christ means to experience a real relationship and union with Him. The follower of Christ increasingly realises that there is nothing in this world that compares with the wonder of knowing Christ and His love bestowed upon them.

Concern - Philip has a very real concern for his friend Nathanael. There is something striking that I want you to see in these verses. Notice what Philip does, Philip found Nathanael. Jesus had commanded Philip and bid him follow Him, to cling to Him, to become like Him, and that is what Philip by grace did. He went out and did exactly as Jesus had displayed in His actions towards him. Jesus had sought after and found Philip to bring him to Himself. Following the example of his Master, Philip went out and found his friend in order to bring him to Jesus. Philip became concerned for the advancing of the Gospel, and for the eternal condition of those around him.

Conviction - We need to see that the conversion and concern that Philip displayed in his life were grounded in the firm conviction that Jesus was the Messiah. There was no doubt in his mind that Jesus was the One who was prophesied. That is why he says, we have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth. Philip's conviction was a source of great joy to him. As Jesus had found him, bid him follow, as he had taken those steps of faith, grace poured into his life, Jesus had become his all in all. His certainty and conviction founded upon the truth and reality of Jesus Christ was a fountain of joy in his life. Philip's conviction was not based on a questionable foundation, rather he had met Christ, and the applied Word gave Him confidence. The Scriptures confirmed Philip's conviction as being sure and true. Philip had searched the Scriptures, and he was able to see that Christ was the fulfilment of all the Scriptures. He fulfilled the prophecies of the coming Messiah. He was certainly the Messiah.



Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs