

They Had Been With Jesus – Phillip –

Luke – The Acts of Jesus

Luke 6:14e

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Background

- Phillip, Gr. “Lover of Horses”
 - Though Jewish, no Hebrew name is recorded
 - Hellenistic Jews (influenced by the Greeks)
- Always listed first in the second group of four
- From Bethsaida – Jn 1:44; 12:21
 - like Andrew & Peter, James & John – cf., Jn 21:2f.
 - Bethsaida, lit. “House of Fishing”
- All we know from the Bible is found in John’s Gospel
 - except for the lists in the synoptics (Matthew, Mark & Luke)
- Probably grew up knowing and working with the four above, and Thomas & Nathanael (fishermen from Cana?).

Four Incidents

- Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.” – Jn 1:43
 - Faith to follow
- Jesus asked him, “Where are we to buy bread, that these may eat?” – 6:5
 - Lack of faith to feed
- Greek God-fearers, or converts said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” – 12:20
 - Which formula to follow?
- The Teaching at the Last Supper – Jn 14:1—14
 - Failed to recognize the Father – 14:8

Follow Me – 1:43

- Jesus sought Phillip out and approached him.
 - Cf. 15:16, though they were all chosen by God, Phillip was the first to be told, “Follow Me.”
 - Phillip was drawn by God to seek after Him
 - Responded by seeking after God and His Messiah
- Phillip’s immediate response was to seek out Nathanael
 - He had the heart of an evangelist
 - “We have found Him...”
- Apparently no one had brought Phillip to Jesus.
 - He was a seeker after God, like Simeon (Lk 2:25)

The Question of Bread – Jn 6

- Jesus tested his faith concerning food for 5,000 men. 6:5*f*.
 - “Where are we to buy bread...?” (cf., Jn 2:52)
 - Phillip was apparently already thinking about the logistics of caring for all these people, because he had calculated their resources as insufficient. – 6:7
 - Having seen many miracles, he still had little faith.
 - Cf., Andrew, he found some fish & bread – 6:9 (Mt 17:20)

What to Do With Greek Visitors – Jn 12

- Greeks sought audience with Jesus through Phillip (because of his name?) – 12:20*f*.
 - Hadn't Jesus turned away from non-Jews?
 - "...Go only to the lost sheep of Israel..." – Mt 10:5*f*.
 - "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." – Mt 15:24
 - And yet, Jesus came to save "whosoever..." – Jn 3:16*ff*.
 - "to the Jew first, then to the Gentile." – Ro 2:10
 - He came to His own – Jn 1:11*f*.
- Phillip found Andrew and together they took them to Jesus. Jn 12:22 (cf., Jn 6:37)

He missed the Father – Jn 14:1-14

- As He was giving some timely instruction and encouragement (Mt 10:16), the disciples were all slow of hearing and dull of understanding.
 - “Where are you going and how do we get there?”
 - “Show us the Father....” – 14:8
- Jesus was telling them plainly that He was equal with God, yet they couldn’t grasp it. -14:2, 6, 7
 - “Do you not believe?” – 14:10
 - “Believe” – 14:11
 - Follow your faith to the logical conclusion. – cf., Ro 12:1*f*.

Truths of Note

- He had no apparent gifts that would make him stand out as a future great leader in Jesus' Kingdom.
 - But he was willing to follow and available when Jesus called. – Heb 3:12-15
- He had difficulty seeing past his “accountant’s spectacles.”
 - But Jesus worked through his weakness to demonstrate His divine power. – 2 Co 12:9
- He was one of the early Apostle-Martyrs...eight years after James, he was stoned to death.
 - By all accounts, many were converted under his preaching.
 - God uses the weak things to shame the mighty. – 1 Co 1:27-29