

Finding Jesus

Patrick Briney

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Text: John 1:45 "Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

The Birth Of God In Human Flesh

We are in the season once again of celebrating one of the most amazing events ever to occur on earth, the birth of God in human flesh.

1Ti 3:16 says, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

John 1:1 declares, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Verse 14 says, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

Why God Became Like Us

Amazingly, God came to us.

1. He came because we needed Him.
2. He came because we lost Him. Lu 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." We left Him and wandered from God to sin and self. He never left us. When we separated from Him, we became lost because we lost our way.
3. He came because we would not find Him if He did not first find us. Romans 3:11 says, "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." What this means is that there is no one who seeks after Him on His terms. There are many who seek after Him on their own terms.
4. He came because He loves us. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

And this is why mankind can find Him. This is why God is findable. It is because He wants to be found. He wants all men to come to Him and to enjoy a reunion with their Creator. He wants all of mankind to find Him and to be restored to their purpose and blessings as originally intended.

Wise men still seek Him. And whoever seeks Him will find Him. Matthew 7:7 says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." But God does it His way, which is not always the way men expect it. In fact, God's way is the always man's least expected way. He is full of surprises for the arrogant, the proud, and the presumptuous.

Ps 2:4 "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." That is another sermon.

Finding Jesus

When Philip said to Nathaniel, "We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph", he was announcing that they had found the Messiah that they had been told to expect and to look for.

As Jews, they had been committed with the oracles of God since the time of Moses. They had been instructed in the way of the Law and the prophets. They had been raised hearing about a Savior from God who would come to deliver them from their sins.

But the prophets said Bethlehem was the city to be blessed with the coming of the divine Messiah. Micah 5:2 says, “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

This was one of God’s surprises for the proud. God’s Savior, the Messiah, would come from Bethlehem, an insignificant, little town in Judah. But if Bethlehem is described as insignificant “though thou be little among the thousands of Judah”, how much more Nazareth! Nazareth was about 100 miles north of Bethlehem! It was insignificant as a Jewish dwelling. It was obscure. There is so little understood about Nazareth and Galilee that there is debate about the culture and religion of that place.

The temple and the center of worship and teaching was in Jerusalem, the holy capital of the Jews. It was in Jerusalem where all the action was. Bethlehem was only about 5.5 miles. Nazareth was about 100 miles away. One of the reasons the Jewish leaders rejected Jesus as the Messiah was because He was a Galilean. After the Pharisees sent their officers to arrest Jesus, they came back empty handed. The Pharisees asked the officers why they did not bring Jesus back with them. And they said, “Never man spake like this man.” And it was at that time that Nicodemus, a Pharisee, said “Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?” The Pharisees looked at them like they were crazy and ignorant saying, in John 7:50, “... Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.”

And in fact, John 7:49 reveals the pompous attitude of the Pharisees when they said of those who believe in Jesus, “But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.”

Jesus grew up in Nazareth, so He was known as a Galilean. But He was born in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. His star shown bright and guided wise men from the east to the place of His birth in Bethlehem.

The wise men found Jesus. The foolish found Him too, but they did not know it. They were too proud and arrogant to recognize Him.

Nathaniel questioned whether anything good could come out of Nazareth but was humble enough to investigate the claim. Sure enough, unlike the Pharisees, Nathaniel found Jesus.

Conclusion/Application

1. Have you found Jesus?
2. If you have, then you will help others find Him too; just like Philip told Nathaniel about finding Jesus. This is what the Christian life is all about—telling others that we have found Jesus and that they can find Him too.

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