**Twelve – Wk 6 – Phillip and Nathaniel – Fishing Buddies**

**We are walking in the disciples' footsteps - exploring standout moments with Jesus and what we can learn about being a disciple.**

**Matthew 10:1 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. 2 The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.**

**They were not the most gifted or qualified, but God took these ordinary people and did extraordinary things.**

**THE TWELVE: All four gospels and Acts list the twelve.**

**The lists are slightly varied as nicknames and surnames were used.**

**1. Simon (Peter) - Son of Jonah / 2. Andrew (Simon's brother)**

**3. James - Son of Zebedee / 4. John (James’s brother)**

**5. Philip / 6. Bartholomew (Nathanael)**

**7. Matthew (Levi) / 8. Thomas (Didymus = the twin)**

**9. James / 10. Jude (Judas/Joses/Thaddeus)**

**11. Simon (the Zealot) / 12. Judas Iscariot (the traitor)**

**They were called as disciples and became Apostles.**

**The only thing they all had in common – they were all Jewish.**

**Matt 4:19 “Jesus told them they would fish for men”**

**\*\* Today, two best friends and fishing buddies.**

**Philip and Bart / Nathan - What do you know about them? Anything…**

**Two best friends that are often seen and found together.**

**Friends in youth and Bible college – always wanted to be friends who worked side by side. That is my ministry dream.**

**Philip - Bartholomew (Nathanael) – we will do them together.**

**Philip - What we know:**

* **Was from Bethsaida - name means, “lover of horse”**
* **Given a Greek name by Jewish parents – knew the scriptures well.**
* **He was friends of Peter and Andrew (John 1:44)**
* **Assumed he was a fisherman. (John 21:43-46)**
* **He met Jesus soon after Peter, Andrews, James, & John (John 1:43)**
* **He introduced his best friend Nathanael to Jesus.**
* **He was tested by Jesusa the 5000 miracle (John 6:5-6)**
* **He is not the evangelist Phillip mentioned in Acts 8.**

**His personality:**

* **He was a loving friend.**
* **He looked up to Andrew (John 12:21-22)**
* **He was approachable (John 12:20-22)**
* **He was a numbers guy - practical. (John 6:5-7)**

**I want to highlight one of Phillip's story**

**John 6:2 And a large crowd was following him, (Jesus) because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. 3 Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. 5 Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” 6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. (Jesus knew the outcome but was teaching Phillip)**

**7 Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” (We don’t have enough money to help – sound familiar) 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9 “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” (We don’t have enough resources to help – sound familiar)**

**10 Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now, there was much grass in the place. So, the men sat down, about five thousand in number. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” 13 So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.**

**\*\* What little we have in the hands of Jesus is always more than enough to make a difference when we can just give it to him.**

**Too often, we think money is the answer to our problems. That things or necessities are the answer to our problems.**

**Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.**

**2 Cor 9:8 - And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.**

**Phillip learned - that money and possessions are not the answer to our problems - Jesus is.**

**Bartholomew (Nathaniel) - What we know:**

* **Nathaniel Bar Tolmai - “Bar” is son of, and “Tolmai” is a name. Nathanael, the son of Tolmai.**
* **He was from Cana and moved to Capernaum (John 21:1-14)**
* **He was introduced to Jesus by his friend Phillip (John 1:45-46)**
* **He questioned Jesus' upbringing and town.**
* **Jesus said he saw him before they even met.**
* **Jesus immediately complemented Nathaniel. (John 1:47-51)**

**His personality:**

* **Nathaniel had some prejudice and attitude issues.**
* **He was a straight shooter. He keeps it real.**
* **He was not one to manipulate people or be fake.**

**Apparently, Jesus respects honesty, even if it’s misguided.**

**Let’s see how Phil and Nate met Jesus- John 1:43 The next day (day after Andrew, John, & Peter met Jesus in Bethany) Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. (Was this after he returned, perhaps an invite to walk home, 5-day journey? We don’t know. But after this, he knew what he needed to do) 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, (we have found the Messiah) Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” (Jesus surname) 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (A small hic town like that – no way the Messiah is from there) Philip said to him, “Come and see.”**

**47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” (here comes a Jewish guy who is a straight shooter – who calls them as he sees them. A guy who always speaks what’s on his mind) 48 Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?”**

**Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” (Some scholars hold that this is based on a Jewish figure of speech referring to meditating on the Torah. I know you and I know everything) 49 Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” (You are God in the flesh! The Messiah King!)**

**50 Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” (oh, you ain’t seen nothing yet) 51 And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” (referring to Jacob’s ladder, Gen 28, I am the ladder, the link, the way to heaven!)**

**1. Friends make great evangelists**

**Relational evangelism (RV) is what most of you will do your whole life.**

**A friend telling a friend.**

**There are two parts to RV. We see both there.**

1. **The go and tell – go to where you live and work**
2. **The come and see – come to where we worship (church).**

**Go and tell!**

**Matt 28:19-20 - Go and make disciples of all nations...**

**Mark 16:15 - Go into all the world and tell everyone the good news…**

**Luke 24:47 - …that the forgiveness of sins will be told to every nation…**

**John 20:21 - I am sending you into the world to tell them of my forgiveness…**

**Come and see!**

**John 1:39 - Jesus say, “Come and see” / Jo 1:46 - Philip says, “Come and see.” John 7:37 - Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.**

**John 21:12 - Come and eat with me.**

**Matt 11:28 - Come to me, all who labor and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

**John 7:37 - Jesus stood up and called out in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. (Quoting Isaiah 55:1)**

**John 6:37 - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.**

**Jesus invites you – we invite you – come and see – this is the great invitation of God’s grace.**

**We see it with the Samaritan woman at the well - John 4:29: “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.**

**\*\*\* You have a fishing buddy – us (the church) – and each other.**

**Biblical Fishing is a buddy sport – is not a solo expedition. Jesus sent disciples in groups. Every good fishing trip takes a buddy along.**

**The mission is something we do together – the church and you.**

**We seek to equip, empower, and ignite you to “Go and tell,” and be here ready to cast the nest for the “come and see.”**

**We together are fishing buddies.**

**Luke 14:23 - Then the master (Jesus) told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.**

**How many of you met Jesus through a friend or were brought to church by a friend? Invest in a friend, talk to them about Jesus - and when the time is right, “Come and see.” Expose them to the presence and family of God – the Church.**

**2. God knows already those who will come to him**

**John 1:48 Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”**

**I see everything, I saw you. I know everything, I know you! - Psalm 139:7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?**

**Just as I found Philip (v43) - Nathan, I found you before you realized it.**

**John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you.**

**John 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.**

**Nathaniel’s calling story is a wonderful picture of Jesus' omniscience and sovereignty in our lives.**

**God speaking to Jeremiah - Jeremiah 1:4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”**

**Paul says - Galatians 1:15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, 16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles…**

**Paul didn’t want Jesus, hated Jesus, and lived his life far from Jesus - until Jesus had determined that it was time to come.**

**Jesus told Nathan, “I saw you all along, I have been working in you since before you were born, and I knew you were coming.”**

 **Maybe you can look back and see God's hand in your life.**

**I think of - Psalm 139:13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. (read Psalm 139 today)**

**This also reminds us our role is not to convince or twist arms, we “go & tell” and invite to “come & see.” God does the rest.**

**3. Jesus always has a way of rearranging our beliefs and attitudes**

**John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (I know that place – I lived just down the road in Cana – no way!)**

**Nathan questioned Jesus' upbringing and town. He mocked, “Nazareth, are you kidding?”**

**Jesus did not chastise him and say, ' You better change that attitude and mindset if you want to be with me' – no.**

**47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”**

**He said, “I like this guy – he tells you what he thinks.”**

**Then Jesus took him and renewed his thinking.**

**\*\*\* We first come to Jesus – we then get worked on by the Holy Spirit.**

**You don’t try to do surgery on yourself before you go to the hospital. That is why you go. You go because you can’t do it.**

**Ephesians 4:17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. (old mind) 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ! 21 Assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (New mind)**

**By the Power of God in us – we first see what needs to change, we want to change, and God points out areas to work on and do – and by the power of God in us we can do it.**

**\*\* This is the subject of tonight's LT discussion.**

**What happened to Phil and Nate?**

**They were friends to the end - forever fishing buddies. History records they traveled and ministered together for years to come.**

**It is recorded they traveled together to Armenia (S. Russia) to preach. Both are the patron saints of the Armenian Apostolic Church.**

**Phillip & Nate then traveled to Gaul (France) and Galatia (Turkey). While in Hierapolis (N. Syria), the wife of the proconsul was healed by God after Phil and Bart prayed for her and became a follower of Jesus.**

**Philip's martyrdom in Hierapolis.**

**The proconsul was furious and had Philip, Nate, and Mariamne (Philip’s sister) stoned and then crucified. Phillip continued to proclaim Jesus while on the cross. Bartholomew was taken down before he died and survived. Phillip died circa AD 54.**

**Nathaniel, after Phillips's death, recovered and traveled as far as India. He translated the Gospel of Matt into local languages of India. He then joined the apostle Jude back in Armenia. He spoke many languages.**

**One of the great reputations of the aging Nathaniel Bar Tolmai was his love for prayer. Known for a loud, trumpeting preaching voice.**

**Nathaniel/Batholomew martyrdom**

**The king of Armenia (modern Azerbaijan) was so angry at Nate that he was whipped until his skin began to peel off - and crucified head down – dying circa in 68 AD. (Possibly beheaded)**

**Let’s end with one last look at a story with Phillip. (At the Last Supper)**

**Jesus explains he will soon be leaving and returning to heaven. They are distraught and confused. Jesus tells them that he will return and that he is the only way to the Father.**

**John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”**

**8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” (again, the practical mind of Phil – show us, this does not compute) 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? (Still?) Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.**

**\*\*\* To know Jesus is to know the Father**

**This is a clear declaration of Jesus referring to himself as God. One of the many times he did so in the gospels.**

**Jesus tells Philip - John 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.**

**The emphasis here is that you cannot separate Christ's works and words from his being. If you know Jesus, you know miracles.**

**I laugh at movies/books that try to present a Jesus without his miracles (37 in the gospels - John says there were countless more).**

**- His miracles are proof and authority of his words – they reveal who he is – God in the flesh. To know Jesus is to know God.**

**John writes - John 1:18 - No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, (from the very inside, chest, bosom) he has made him known.**

**John 1:49 Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”**

**The apostles knew this. Phillip and Nathan understood this and gave their life to this truth.**

**The only way you can ever know God is Jesus. According to the Bible – there is no other way. What will you do with this?**

**We ask you today as they did – come and see?**

**Prayer:**

**Help us to grow and mature – change our attitudes and minds.**

**Help us to reach our friends – give us boldness and love.**

**Ground us in the truth of who you are!**

**The Son of God! You are the Messiah and King!**

**Life Team Bible Study – March 30**

* Is there anything about the current series that stands out to you or got your attention so far? If yes, what is it?
* Does someone need to change themselves before they come to Jesus? Why or why not?
* What if they (you) are doing drugs, sleeping around, in sin, etc.?
* If you are a Christian, what was your life like when you came to Jesus?

**As we saw today in service, one does not need to change to come to Jesus – we are simply to come. God then changes us.**

**Come and see! (Group leader read these)**

**John 1:39 - Jesus say, “Come and see”**

**John 1:46 - Philip says, “Come and see (Jesus).”**

**John 7:37 – Jesus says, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.”**

**John 21:12 - Jesus says, “Come and eat with me.”**

**Matthew 11:28 - Jesus says, “Come to me, all who labor and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”**

**John 7:37 - Jesus stood up and called out in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. (Quoting Isaiah 55:1)**

**John 6:37 - Jesus says, “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”**

**Jesus invites you – this is the great invitation of God’s grace.**

* God says, come to him - we then submit to the Lordship of Jesus, and then what happens? (The Holy Spirit fills our life).
* Once the Holy Spirit fills us, what happens? (From the inside out, we begin to change.)
* What does that mean, and how does that happen?

**By the Power of God in us – we first see what needs to change, we want to change, and God points out areas to work on and do – and by the power of God in us we can do it.**

**Today, we are talking about how God gives us a new mind and new heart when we follow him. We see this in the Apostles.**

**Read and discuss**

**Ephesians 4:17-23**

* (Verses 17-19) Refers to our old mind and ways, How does Paul describe our old way of thinking?
* (Verses 20-24) Refers to our new mind and way of thinking. How does Paul describe that?
* What do the following verses say about having a new mind?

**(Read each passage and discuss it before you read the next one)**

**Ezekiel 36:26-27**

**Romans 12:1-2**

**Colossians 3:5-10 (the key is verse 10)**

**1 Corinthians 1:14-16**

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18**