



Welcome back to another message in our Chosen Ones series. If you're new, The Chosen One series, is based on Season 2 of The Chosen made for TV series. Last week PMark kicked off our series well with the message that messed us up with the message of the Good Samaritan. I came to that message thinking, I'm like the Good Samaritan, but left with thinking, I'm more like the Priest, or Levite, that needs Jesus to save me from my selfish ways. Go check out that message if you missed it!

Today, I'm focusing on a selection, the choosing, the picking out, of one of Jesus first followers, his name, Nathanael or by his other name, Bartholomew. How he was picked? I figure, if Jesus started the greatest worldwide movement of 2000 years that now has about 2.5 billion followers of the 7.8 billion people on our planet, I wanna know what was so special about how he chose, how he picked out, recruited some of his first followers, and how those Jesus picked answered his call to follow him cuz therein lies some great gems of truth of how I believe Jesus picks people today to be his followers and how our response should be when he call us.

But the fact is, we don't get to hear all the details of every story in the bible although what's important is reported. And as a fisherman/diver a waterman, I always wanted to know what kind of fish the disciples caught, what kind of fish Jesus miraculously multiplied, the fish that Peter them caught, and fed all the people. Was it Tilapia or mullet? I wanna know cuz then I won't give a hard time to my Filipino friends that still eat Tilapia today. We'll never know! That's one question I'll ask Jesus when I get to heaven. What kind fish they wen catch and eat Galilee side?

And it's like this for the story of Jesus picking Nathanael. There is not much to the story. That's why, I like watching The Chosen series to see the creative liberties the producers put into the series. They are in filling the gaps with what the bible is silent about in those stories. And I hope we are watching with a critical eye to see if what they show happened in the bible. And for today's encounter that Jesus has with Phillip and Nathanael, they take an entire episode to play out that entire story. But, in the bible account, it's just eight verses. And their selection as Jesus' disciples comes a day after he chooses Andrew and Peter, the fishermen. Let me read it for you from the NLT translation.

⁴³ "The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me." ⁴⁴ Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown. ⁴⁵ Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ "Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" **"Come and see for yourself,"** Philip replied,"
(John 1:43-46 NLT).

[Scene from the Chosen]

The CHOSEN



OG Discussion Q1: Who are those Phillips that God used in your life that called you out to "Come and See"?

2



OG Discussion Q2: How's your excitement levels for Jesus on a scale of 1 - 10, 10 being you can't stop telling everybody? Ask God to bring more excitement back to you so that you can be a Phillip to someone.

Those people in your circles, your Jerusalems, know you and trust you! Leverage that trust to introduce them to our savior, the one who can make such a difference in our lives! Has Jesus made a difference in your life? So, we go tell everybody about him? How, just tell them, what? Come and See.

That's what's happening today at our church. There are people so excited about their new relationship with Jesus that they are inviting their family and friends to Come and See. For others, it's you have no choice to Come cuz you too young to know what's good for you, but I trust you goin see for yourself.

And when Phillip brings his friend Nathanael to encounter Jesus, there is another truth we can learn from this encounter Jesus had with Nathanael.

47 "As they approached, Jesus said, "Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity." 48 "How do you know about me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you." 49 Then Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus asked him, "Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." 51 Then he said, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth," (John 1:47 - 51 NLT).

[Scene from the Chosen]

You see the creativity of The Chosen series where they include what could have happened, Jesus in the Chosen says, "when you were in your lowest moment, and you were alone, I did not turn my face from you. . . I saw you!" The truth is we really don't know what Nathanael was doing under the fig tree and how he was feeling?

But it's clear, Jesus saw Nathanael. And if were Nathanael and Jesus just said, I saw you Nathanael, "I'd say, yeah, I no believe you!" But cuz he said, I saw you under that fig tree, that would catch my attention. It would be like if Jesus said, I saw you unda dat mango tree, I wen spock you at that park, etc.



I wonder if that's the case today! Yes, God uses those Phillips to introduce us to Jesus, but maybe Jesus already has had his eyes on us way before that. We think we the ones that find Jesus, but the truth is, it's our master, the one in charge, he sees us and has always seen us before we see him. And like how The Chosen series portrays how Jesus sees Nathanael, Jesus sees us in our lowest moments, when we need him the most even if we think God is so far away from us at that time. In Job, one of Job's friends says this,

²¹ "God watches where people go; he sees every step they take (Job 34:21 NCV)."

Don't you think the God of the universe who created you has his eyes on each of us. If he's our heavenly daddy, he loves each of us as his cherished children, his eyes are always on us. Just like us as parents, our kids are always in our eyesight even if they don't know that fact and even if they are older!

And sometimes we feel God is so far away, but the fact is, he's eyes, his care, his concern is always there for us and on us. This is what our master Jesus says to us:

¹⁶ "You guys neva pick me. I wen pick you guys, an give you dis job: go do plenny good stuff dat goin las long time, jalike one grape vine dat give plenny good fruit long time. Den, watev-as you go aks my Faddah fo do cuz you my guys, he goin do um fo you. ¹⁷ So den, dis wat I tell you guys fo do: get love an aloha fo each odda," (John 15:16-17 DGASB).

And Jesus was talking to his followers in this passage. And he sternly tells them, "You guys neva pick me, I wen pick you guys." And there is a promise here. That he picks us for one job. And what's that? "Fo do good stuff that is gonna last long time." In other translations, Jesus says, "to bear fruit, produce fruit that will last"

Jesus picks us for greatness. We just gotta believe that he does so. And us no can bear fruit, do good stuff fo him without being connected to him. That's Jesus' main point in this passage. He picks us, not the other way around, to be connected to him in relationship for greatness, something beyond ourselves.

OG Discussion Q3: Reread John 15:16. Because you know each other in your OG, point out the fruit you see being produced in each other's lives. Pray for each other to have a stronger connection with Jesus to produce more fruit!

The CHOSEN



Never doubt God's attention on our lives. He's always got us, he promises to get us, and he got us even now with whatever we are going through.

So today. As we follow Nathanael's story of how God picked him, remember God has always had his eyes on us. Yes, he may have used some Phillips to invite you to come and see, but it's always been him? Why, it's because he loves you and me. What should our response be? I think it should be like Nathanael's response. How did Nathanael respond when Jesus picked him. Listen good!

⁴⁹ "Then Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus asked him, "Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." ⁵¹ Then he said, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth," (John 1:49-51).

I pray that that's our response to Jesus as well! That we'd respond to Jesus as our King, da fo real kine guy, who is the Son of God. Our savior and the one in charge of our lives. And when we do, you watch, you see we'll see great things in and through our lives for the world to see. Dass it!