

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Please turn your bibles with me to John 1-

Let's pray...

[Jhn 1:43-51 NKJV] 43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Here at the beginning of verse 43, John makes sure to point out – that this is a new day – this is Day #4

On the first day, he provided us details regarding the delegation that came to question John the Baptist (19)

Day #2 is when John the Baptist pointed out to everyone to "Behold, the Lamb of God" as Jesus approached him (29)

Day #3 is when John the Baptist nudged two of his disciples to Jesus (Andrew and John) (35) and then Andrew went out to his brother Peter to Jesus.

And so we come to day #4 –

And in day 4, Jesus is ready to head north – He is ready to go back home, to the region of Galilee – where He will spend a good portion doing His earthly ministry.

And as they head north, Jesus found Philip –

Now, Philip wasn't a stranger off the street – he was fisherman, from the same small fishing village where Andrew and Peter grew up.

Now, last week – when Andrew brought Peter before Jesus, the scriptures tell us that Jesus gave Peter a new identity – He changed his name from Simon to Rocky.

However, in the calling of Philip – Jesus only uses the phrase “follow me”

I had you make a note of “follow me” because the words that Jesus uses are in the present tense – in other words, He is telling Philip - “don't just follow me for a time – continue to follow me – always”

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 And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

In the same way that Andrew was compelled to tell others about Jesus (as he told Peter), Philip did the same thing – and he goes and he tells his buddy, Nathaniel.

“Nate, we found the Messiah!!! The One that Moses and the prophets spoke about – His name is Jesus, He’s from Nazareth”

Now, Nate – he is not impressed with the news Philip has come with?

And the reason he is not impressed is because of where Jesus was from – Nazareth!!!

Nate knew Nazareth because John tells us later on that he was from Cana – the next city over. Which by the way, is where we will see Jesus perform His first miracle later on in the study.

During this time, Nazareth had become a boomtown.

Herod was building his Roman style capital about 3.5 miles north of Nazareth – in Sepphoris.

So Nazareth had become a work camp for many of the Jewish craftsmen that were working there.

And as was typical for such boomtowns, it had a reputation for being a pretty rough place.

So the idea of the Messiah coming from such a place was, well, repugnant it was unacceptable.

If you would have said He was from Bethlehem – I might have gone along with it because that’s the city of David. If you would have said, Jerusalem – I might have gone

along with it because that is where the temple is and where all the religious ceremonies occur.

But, this Jesus is from Nazareth – so based on that alone – there is no way He is the Messiah – because nothing good comes from Nazareth.

Look at Philips response –

Come and see –

“Nate, you come, you ask your questions, - and you will come to the conclusion that He is the Messiah, He is the Son of God, He is the King of Israel, He is the One prophesied.

Church – we have to remember, we cannot argue anyone to Christ – all we do is point them in that direction – “Come and see for yourself”

Come to church, open up your bible, pray – ask your questions – Meet Jesus for yourself –

He will reveal Himself to you.

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"

Turn with me to Psalm 32 – I had you make note of the word deceit.

[Psa 32:2 NKJV] 2 Blessed [is] the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit [there is] no deceit.

In the original Greek translation of the Old Testament – as they translated it from Hebrew to Greek - the word for deceit is a word that is used to describe Jacob.

Now, when we study the life of Jacob in the Old Testament – we find that for a good portion of his early life – he was a deceiver.

He deceived Esau of his birthright – for a bowl of lentils

He deceived Isaac into giving him the blessing that he intended to give Esau – by dressing up like Esau

He deceived his uncle Laban who had already deceived him by giving him the wrong daughter to marry.

So Jacob lived a life of full of deceit until God changed his name – from Jacob to Israel (Governed by God)

And after the name change, it seems that there are times when he reverts to walking in the flesh – the scriptures will identify him as Jacob and when he is walking with God – the scriptures will identify him as Israel.

So when Jesus sees Nathaniel coming toward Him –

What He is saying is -

"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no Jacob!" – meaning, he was a man of integrity / he was a man that was governed by God.

He was a true Israelite –

In a nation of hypocrites and phonies, where many boasted about their own self-righteousness' – this was rare.

Looking at Nate - there stood a true hearted man, a genuine believer, an honest man – a repentant believer to the One True God.

Jesus is pointing to His disciples and revealing Nate's spiritual condition.

And then we see Nate's response -

48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Nate is blown away –

How do You know me?

Did Philip tell you where I was, what I was doing?

However, there is no way that Philip would have been able to discern Nate's spiritual condition -

And Jesus reveals His omniscience to Nate

I not only know you on the inside, I know you on the outside.

I not only know who you are, I know where you are.

I saw you when My eyes couldn't see you.

I can see your heart and I can see your body.

Nate didn't believe the news from Philip that Jesus was the Messiah – but when he came to look for himself – when he came to see – Jesus revealed Himself to him.

Now, regarding this fig tree –

What was Nate doing under the fig tree?

Some bible scholars believe that Nate was praying and meditating on God's word – which was the custom during this time.

It could have been that he was meditating on the portion of scripture that dealt with Jacob's name change –

However, we also find the term under the fig tree in the OT as a reference for those who are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the Messiah and His kingdom?

[Mic 4:4 NKJV] 4 But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make [them] afraid; For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

[Zec 3:10 NKJV] 10 In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'Everyone will invite his neighbor Under his vine and **under his fig tree.' "**

Nathaniel was one who was eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Messiah.

Which bring me to this important application

God will often meet us right where we are.

Both where we are in our present condition but also where we are in His word.

That is why our daily time of devotion is so important –

It doesn't matter what portion of scripture we are reading or we could even be listening to a bible study on the radio or online – God will meet us there and have a word for us.

A word of wisdom

A word of encouragement

A word to strengthen us, to convict us

A word to stir us

And He will use the entirety of God's word

Church, Doing daily devotions is not about checking the box – ok, I did my bible reading today – I am good.

They are not about acquiring intellectual knowledge of what God Word says.

They are profound times of spiritual equipping for you and for me.

And no matter where we are, He is ready to come and meet us.

He is ready to say, I saw you sitting under the fig tree – this is what I want to do in your life.

49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, **You are the Son of God!** You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the **angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.**"

Nathaniel responds to Jesus' revelation by proclaiming Him the Messiah – the King of Israel.

But also, You are the Son of God

He is speaking of Jesus' deity.

It is the first confession of Jesus' deity in the gospels chronologically.

And Jesus tells Nate – "because I revealed my omniscience to you, you have declared this.

But guess what? It isn't enough. I am going to show you greater things for the next three years."

And Jesus gives them an illustration from the OT that they would remember –

And that is the story of Jacob's ladder in Genesis 28 –

The dream that Jacob had of the angels ascending and descending upon a ladder/staircase that stretched from heaven to earth.

Over time, the Jews had come to understand that Jacob's dream was God's way to show them that it would be through Him that the way to heaven would come.

When Jesus said this, He was claiming to be the fulfillment of that promise.

He was Jacob's staircase.

"Nathaniel, heaven is going to open up and you are going to see things that are supernatural and divine."

And it all begins in ch 2.

[Jhn 2:1-12 NKJV] 1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.

Once again, Cana is not far from Nazareth – remember, earlier I said that the scriptures reveal to us that Nate was from Cana.

And there is a wedding –

A typical Jewish wedding feast lasted seven days.

The feast took place after the groom took his bride to his father's house.

And the bride would usually be secluded in a part of the house until she emerged on the seventh day.

So really, it was a combination of a family reunion, wedding shower, bachelor party, honeymoon all rolled into one – everyone would have a good time, except the bride that was secluded.

So Mary was there at the wedding and by the wording, it appears as if she was serving in some type of official capacity – she was helping out in some form.

And this is based on what happens next -

3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

Mary goes up to Jesus and tells Him – they are out of wine.

This is not a simple commentary that Mary was making to Jesus –

– it was an appeal for Him to do something about it.

Here's why –

A Jewish wedding feast was one of the few times in the difficult & dreary lives of the Jews at this time - where they took a break from all rules and just had a good time.

There was a lot of music, dancing, storytelling and an abundance of food and drink.

It was a joyous time

Imagine the best wedding you ever attended and extend it over a week.

That was a Jewish Wedding Feast.

The only thing that could ruin a Jewish Wedding Feast was if they ran out of food and wine.

The guests would pack up and go home feeling like they were not given the proper hospitality.

And from that day forth, the newlywed couple would have to bear the stigma of being stingy and rude.

Nobody wanted to run out of wine at their wedding.

If you ran out of wine at your wedding, you'd have to hang your head in shame for the rest of your life in that village.

That is why Mary went to Jesus – she knew who He was and she knew He could be able to do something about it.

4 Jesus said to her, "**Woman**, what does your concern have to do with Me? **My hour has not yet come.**"

When we first look at verse 4 – it appears to be a rebuke of Mary.

It comes off as if Jesus is saying SOOOOOO!!! What's this have to do with Me?

He also doesn't call her mom – he calls her woman.

This is not the disrespectful form of woman – This isn't the Woman of – hey Woman, go make me a sandwich.

The Greek word that is used here is the word for lady or ma'am.

And the significance of this is that as Jesus begins His public ministry – He is telling us that He has a different relationship with Mary.

You see, if He would have said – sure mom, I will take care of it – He would no longer be under the direction of the Father's will.

[Jhn 5:30 "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

Remember, Jesus' purpose was to bring the realities of heaven to men – giving priority to the eternal rather than those things that are temporal.

Above being the Son of Mary, He was the Son of Man.

The phrase – my hour has not come, John uses it seven times in the gospel.

And the reference is used to describe the hour where Jesus was going to die, resurrect and ascend to heaven

It refers to the hour that Jesus was going to openly declare who He is and it is also a reference to His earthly ministry coming to an end.

It refers to the hour that God was going to be glorified.

5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do [it]." 6 Now there were set there **six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.**

These 6 waterpots of stone – 120 to 180 gallon, they had one purpose, and that was purification.

You see, the Jews regarded themselves unclean if they didn't wash their hands before and after every meal. The water in these pots were not used for drinking –

Since the wedding feast had been going on for a few days, these water pots were beginning no longer full.

7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." (1) And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw [some] out now,(2) and take [it] to the master of the feast."(3) And they took [it].

I want you to notice that Jesus didn't huddle the servants together and reveal to them that He was going to convert water to wine.

He didn't say, if you do this – this is going to happen.

He asked them to do one thing at a time

1. Fill the pots with water – check
2. Draw some out – check
3. Take some to the wedding coordinator – check

The miracle occurred only as the servants faithfully followed each step.

Many times, we make the mistake of wanting to know what steps 3 – 8 are in our lives before we have even begun to follow step 1.

We want God to reveal to us all the details of how He is going to perform a work in us and through us.

Herb – go to Nogales to start a ministry

Ok God – but first tell me what is the ministry going to look like in 4 years, in 10 years in 20 years and then I will decide if I want to go. Give me all the details.

That is not the way God works

He unfolds His plan, one step at a time –

Notice that they filled the water pots to the brim – I like that because when God asks us to do something – He wants us to go all out. He wants us to serve Him all the way up to the brim.

9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the [guests] have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

It was customary to serve the better wine at the beginning of the wedding feast and save the cheaper wine toward the end.

The wedding coordinator taste the wine that the servants had brought to him – and it is the best wine he had ever tasted – it was wine made by Jesus.

This was a complement to the bridegroom –

The wedding feast was in danger of ending early, the bride and groom were moments from having to live the rest of their life in shame and now Jesus turned it to one of the best wedding ever.

And the only ones who knew about it were Jesus and the servants.

The guests didn't know, the bridegroom and bride didn't know.

It was done in secret –

And all for one thing – to save a young couple from a life of shame

It's the perfect preface to His mission.

He came humbly & quietly to remove our shame & fill our lives with joy by making us His bride.

11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. 12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.

John identifies this miracle as the first of the “signs” that Jesus performed.

In fact, John in his gospel – never uses the word miracle for any of the 8 signs that he records.

And there is a reason that the Holy Spirit inspired him to use the word sign instead of miracle.

A ‘sign’ is something that points to a lesson or truth beyond itself.

So, John wraps his story of Jesus around specific signs that pointed to Who Jesus is.

Here John says that the disciple’s real faith in Jesus began with their seeing this sign.

It revealed the glory that was in Jesus during the incarnation.

And the Word became 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.

It wasn't a glory that dazzled the eyes so much that it dazzled the heart and soul with the way Jesus used His awesome power.

It was one of those little peeks at the glory of Jesus.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

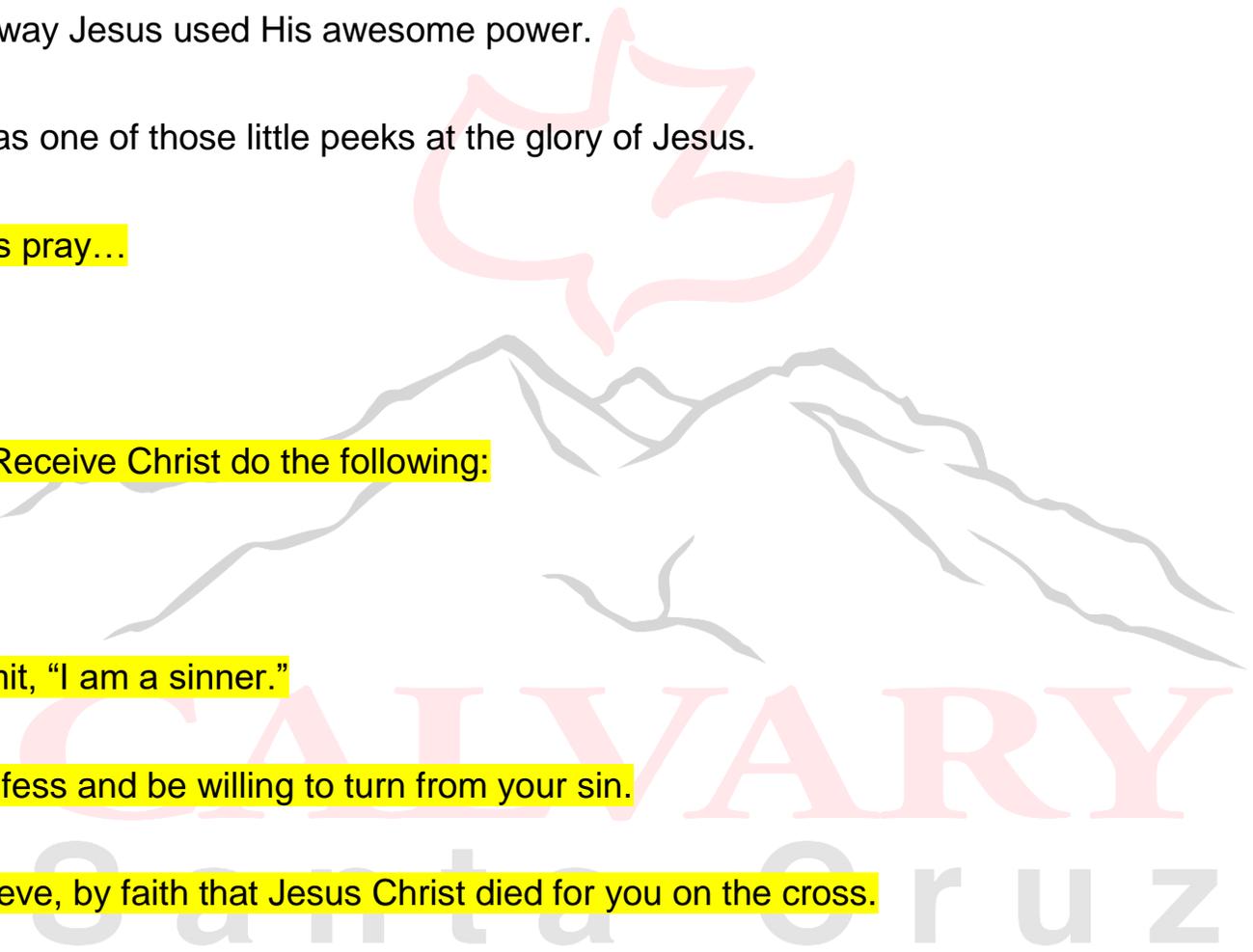
Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,



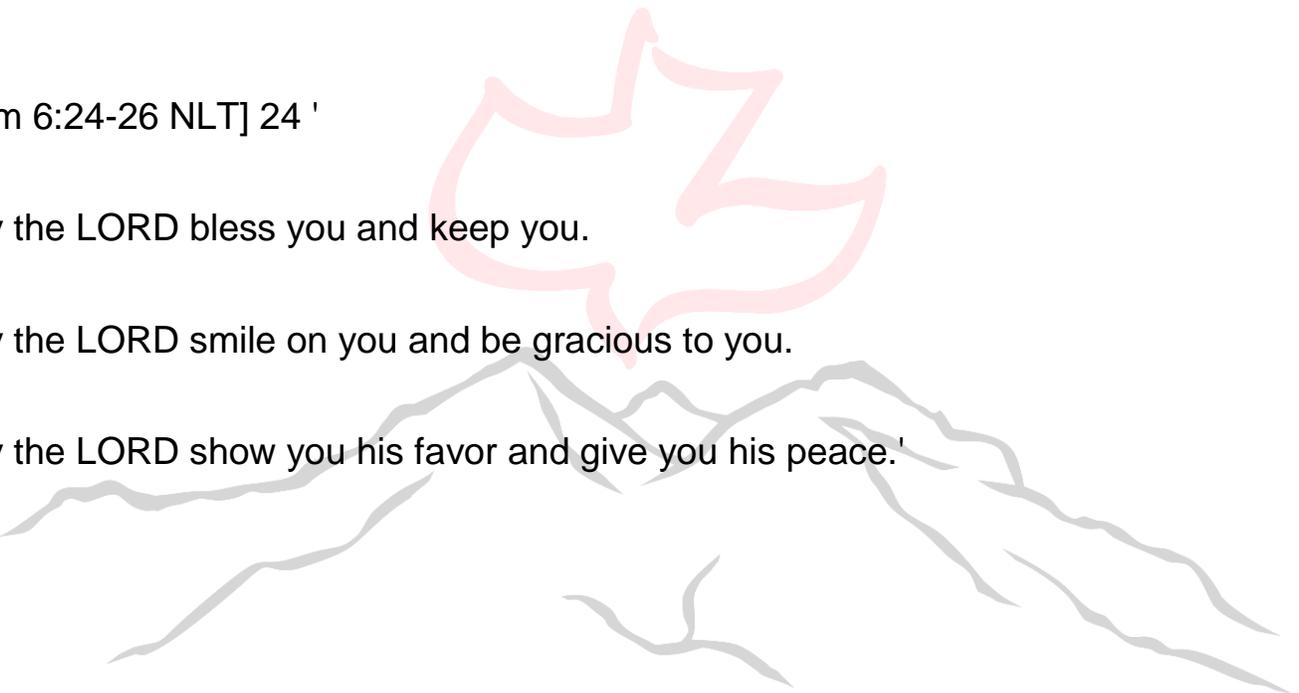
I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and keep you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.!



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