



Lenten Midweek - 1
February 21, 2018



Nathanael-The Guileless One

Friendship Celebration

Lutheran Church ~ Missouri Synod

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February 21, 2018

Dear Disciple of Jesus,

Which of the disciples of Jesus would you like to be? We have looked at a couple already. As you studied the New Testament, you probably have somewhat of an idea of the characteristics of each of them.

This evening, we are going to look closer at Nathanael. Pastor Matt has already introduced us to him when he spoke to us about Philip. Some of Nathanael's characteristics included that he loved God's word. He knew the Old Testament promises about the Messiah. He was a sinful, prejudiced man. He was not a phony. What you saw is who he was. Another lesson we learn from him is that he was eager to learn and grow in his faith.

So, would you like to be like Nathanael? He certainly had some great discipleship qualities. We would do well to imitate him. However, we each need to remember that God made each of us special parts of His Body with gifts and talents that may seem very ordinary, but, in God's hands and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God can do extraordinary things through us.

Be sure and read through and do your best to answer the application questions at the end of message notes.

In God's Grip,

Pastor Tom

- ❖ *There are full-length bulletins and Bibles available from your usher*
- ❖ *Prayer Request forms are also on the Information Desk in the foyer. Please fill out your prayer need/praise **before** the Worship Service begins and hand to Pastor Tom or an Usher to be shared during Prayer time.*

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Opening Song: “Come All Christians, Be Committed”

Come, all Christians, be committed
To the service of the Lord.
Make your lives for Him more fitted,
Tune your hearts with one accord.
Come into His courts with gladness,
Each His sacred vows renew,
Turn away from sin and sadness,
Be transformed with life anew.

Of your time and talents give ye,
They are gifts from God above,
To be used by Christians freely
To proclaim His wondrous love.
Come again to serve the Savior,
Tithes and off'rings with you bring.
In your works with Him find favor,
And with joy His praises sing.

God's command to love each other
Is required of every man.
Showing mercy to a brother
Mirrors His redemptive plan.
In compassion He has given
Of His love that is divine;
On the cross sins were forgiven;
Joy and peace are fully thine.

Come in praise and adoration,
All who on Christ's name believe.
Worship Him with consecration,
Grace and love will you receive.
For His grace give Him the glory,
For the Spirit and the Word,
And repeat the Gospel story
Till all men His name have heard.

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Opening Litany

Leader: We are the salt of the earth.

People: We preserve what is good and right and just.

Leader: We arrest the decay that seeks to destroy what is good and right and just.

People: We are the light of the world.

Leader: We penetrate the darkness with God's life and love.

People: We make known what is hidden and shine God's light in the shadows of our hearts.

Leader: We are called to lives of righteousness.

People: Our lives are to be marked by humility, grace, and peace.

Leader: By our fruits shall the world know we belong to Christ.

People: We are salt! We are light! We are righteous! Let us live to the glory of God! Amen.

Confession of Our Sin

All: Merciful God, You call us to be salt and light and to live as Your righteous, holy people. We want to, Lord, but we fall short! We confess that there is good and bad, light and dark within our own hearts. We want to do what is right, but our fears and anxieties lead us to self-protection rather than vulnerability, to hoarding rather than freely sharing, to self-righteousness rather than compassion. Forgive us, O God. Restore us by Your mercy that having received the gift of Your infinite love, we might turn to our neighbor and give Your love away. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: God's forgiveness is freely extended to all who in faith repent. Hear and believe the Good News: Jesus Christ forgives all your sins!

People: **Hallelujah! Amen.**

Adoration Song: *"The Power of the Cross"*

O to see the dawn of the darkest day,
Christ on the road to Calvary,
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood.
This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath;
We stand forgiven at the cross.

O to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought, every evil deed,
Crowning Your blood-stained brow.
This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath;
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
Quakes as the Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life,
"Finished!" the victory cry.
This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath;
We stand forgiven at the cross.

O to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,

Won through Your selfless love!
This the power of the cross, Son of God slain for us.
What a love, what a cost.
We stand forgiven at the cross.

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The Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 2:15-3:3 ESV

¹⁵For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

3 ¹Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? ²You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. ³And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

The Gospel Lesson

John 1:43-51 ESV

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip 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." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael 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." ⁴⁹Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And 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."

Message Song: “The Servant Song”

Brother, let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey
We are brothers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out for you
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
'Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant too.

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Monologue: *Nathanael*

Message: “Nathanael-The Guileless One”

John 1:43-51

Introduction

- ❖ We’ve been introduced to Nathanael along with Philip
- ❖ Jesus chose the ordinary to do the extraordinary
- ❖ Let’s take a closer look at Nathanael

I. His love for Scripture

- The truth of God’s Word mattered to him
- Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy

II. His prejudice

- He was human and had certain prejudices
- Prejudice is not based on fact, but emotion and bigotry
- Nathanael had contempt for the whole town of Nazareth
- Can God change a prejudiced person into a world changer?
- What about us?

III. The sincerity of his heart

- Jesus’ affirmation: “Behold an Israelite indeed in whom there is no deceit.”
- He’s not a phony or hypocrite, but genuine and sincere
- Example from St. Paul 2 Corinthians 2:15-3:3

IV. He had an eager faith

- He was in the presence of Someone who knew his heart
- He said: “You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel.”
- Summary of Nathanael and one like him

Application Questions:

1. What prejudices do you wrestle with?
2. What does Nathanael teach you about spending time with the Lord?
3. What does this passage teach us about the importance of relationships in sharing our faith? What does that mean for you?
4. What are or were the hurdles you have or had to overcome in your commitment to Jesus?
5. Have you had a Philip in your life? Have you been a Philip?
6. What does this passage teach you about sharing your faith?
7. Being sinless isn’t required to receive Jesus. What is?
8. What qualities in Nathanael’s life would you like to build in yours?

Offering of Our Gifts to God

Our Prayers and Praises

Blessing and Commissioning of God's People

Pastor: My friends, remember what the Lord requires of us. We are to do justice. We are to love kindness. And we are to walk humbly with our God. As you go from this place, may it be with strength and determination to give these gifts to each person you meet.

People: Holy Spirit, guide us as we grow in our discipleship. Amen.

Closing Hymn: *“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”*

Savior, again to Thy dear Name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy Word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day;
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy Name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night,
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light;
From harm and danger keep Thy children free,
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

Public Domain



♦ **Lenten Evening Services (each Wednesday through Lent)**

Soup Suppers 6:00 pm

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm, Drama Presentations, February 28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st

♦ **Palm Sunday, March 25th – 8:15 am, 11:00 am** (Celebration Choir performs)

♦ **Maundy Thursday, March 29th, 7:00 pm**

♦ **Good Friday, March 30th – 7:00 pm**

♦ **Easter Egg Hunt & other activities, 4:00 pm, Saturday, March 31st**

♦ **Easter Services, Sunday, April 1st (Celebration Choir performs)**

Easter Sunrise Worship Service 7:00 am

Easter Celebration Worship Services 8:15 am & 11:00 am

Children's Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am

Easter Breakfast, 9:15 am to 10:30 am

