

**“JESUS APPOINTED TWELVE” (4)**  
**John 1:43-51**

**Introduction:**

- 1. Several years ago I was staying in the home of a Christian in Fort Worth.**
  - a. Our conversation turned to evangelism.**
  - b. He asked: “Whatever happened to those Jule Miller filmstrips? I used to be out several nights a week showing them.”**
  
- 2. Churches of Christ were the fastest growing religious body in the US from 1945-1965.**
  - a. Congregations had week long Gospel Meetings.**
  - b. Soul winning by every member of the church was taught.**
  
- 3. Today, it is different:**
  - a. Many members will not even support a three day meeting.**
  - b. Very few Christians will try to teach others one on one.**
  - c. The church is not even keeping up with population growth!**
  
- 4. The church grew rapidly in the first century because:**
  - a. They taught daily - publicly and privately (Acts 5:42).**
  - b. Every member was a teacher (Acts 8:4).**
  
- 5. Jesus chose soul winners to be His apostles.**

**Discussion:**

- I. “JESUS FOUND PHILIP.”**
  - A. John, the immerser, pointed the first two disciples to Jesus, but “Jesus found Philip and said ‘Follow Me.’”**

**(1)**

## **B. What do we know about Philip?**

- 1. The apostle Philip's name is found in the four lists of the apostles (Matthew 10; Mark 3; Luke 6; Acts 1).**
- 2. Only John gives us additional information about him.**
- 3. His name is Greek and means "a lover of horses."**
- 4. The name was made popular by Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great.**
- 5. There was also a prominent evangelist in the early church named Philip.**
  - a. He was one of the seven servants (Acts 6:1-7).**
  - b. He preached in Samaria (Acts 8:5-25).**
  - c. He taught the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40).**
  - d. He lived in Caesarea (Acts 8:40; 21:8,9).**
- 6. Philip was from Bethsaida, the home of Peter and Andrew (John 1:44; 12:21).**
  - a. Bethsaida was condemned by the Lord because they rejected Him (Matthew 11:21,22).**
  - b. In spite of this, three apostles were raised in this wicked place.**
  - c. One can do right and be good even if raised in a bad environment!**

## **II. "PHILIP FOUND NATHANAEL."**

### **A. Philip wanted to share the Good News with his friend.**

- 1. He told Nathaniel: "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law, and also the prophets, wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph!"**
- 2. Nathaniel was not impressed: "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" he asked.**
- 3. Nazareth was a despised city in Galilee (Jno. 7:52).**

4. Philip did not argue, but said “Come and see;” he was willing to let the evidence speak for itself.
- B. Philip often brought people to Andrew who brought them to Jesus.**
1. It was Philip who was asked by Jesus: “Where shall we buy bread that these may eat?” (John 6:5,6).
  2. It was Philip to whom the Greeks came asking to see Jesus (John 12:20-22).
  3. It was Philip who said to Jesus: “Show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us” (John 14:8,9).
- C. History records that Philip, Nathanael, and Philip’s sister, Mariamne, traveled together teaching the Gospel.**
1. In Hierapolis of Syria, Philip and Mariamne were arrested and imprisoned.
  2. Philip was scourged and he and Mariamne were hanged on a pillar for opposing idolatry.

### **III. NATHANAEL FOUND JESUS.**

- A. Philip had invited Nathanael to “come and see” Jesus.**
1. When Jesus saw Nathaniel, He said: “Behold, an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile.”
    - a. The Savior knew what is in men (John 2:24,25).
    - b. He saw in Nathanael a true Israelite who served God and trusted in His promises (cf. Rom. 9:6).
    - c. There was no guile (deceit, hypocrisy) in him.
    - d. He was an honest, open, sincere man - “What you see is what you get.”
  2. Nathanael asked: “How do you know me?”

- a. Jesus replied: “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”
- b. Jesus showed His omniscience for He knew Nathanael was in his secret place of prayer.
- c. Nathaniel understood the implication: Jesus must be the Christ, the King of Israel.”

3. Jesus promised: “You will see greater things than this!”

**B. This apostle had two names: Nathanael and Bartholomew.**

1. In the four lists of the apostles, his name appears as Bartholomew.
2. Only John calls him Nathanael (John 1:45-51; 21:2).
  - a. Nathanael’s name means “God has given.”
  - b. Bartholomew means “son of Tolmai” (similar to “John’s son” or “Johnson” in English today).
  - c. The apostle’s full name was “Nathanael, son of Tolmai” or Nathanael Bartholomew.

**C. We know very little else about Nathanael Bartholomew.**

1. He was from Cana in Galilee (John 21:2).
2. After the resurrection he was one of five apostles and two other disciples who met Jesus at the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-14).
3. History tells us that Nathaniel preached in India, Parthia and Armenia where he was martyred.

**Conclusion:**

1. There are an estimated five million members of the churches of Christ in the world today.
2. If each member would teach just one other person each year, in just 12 years, every one in the world would hear the true Gospel.

