

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository
Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

113- Jesus Chooses His Apostles- Part 10

Philip

Church September 15, 2024

Matthew 10:1-4

1 Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and 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, the one who betrayed Him.

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Three men, Paul, Peter, and John, *dominate* the Books of the New Covenant. The four Gospel Records and the **Book of the Acts** give us many Details of these three men being sovereignly “called” to Salvation by Jesus; of them coming to Faith; and of Peter and John’s many, many Struggles and Failures until they were endued with Power from on High in the Upper Room; and became part of the very Foundation of the Christian Church.

With Paul, we see him consenting to Stephen’s stoning; him being knocked off his horse by the Lord Christ that he didn’t believe in; having the Encounter with Annais in Damascus; of him going out into the Desert for 14 years; and then of him being the one, more than all the others, who articulated the Doctrines of Justification by Faith Alone and the Sovereignty of God in Salvation in his literary and theological Masterpiece that we call, “**Romans**”.

Of the New Testament's 27 Books- these three men either wrote or had written the *Majority* (23). Yet Jesus chose *twelve* men- not three. And so, I would say to you that Jesus only had so many Pauls; so many Peters; and so many Johns. Jesus also chose a man like Philip to be an Apostle- and yet, we are aware of no Books that Philip wrote.¹ Out of the 31,273 verses in the entire Bible- the name, "*Philip*" takes up only 34. But we dare not think that this Reality means that who Philip was and what Philip did was *unimportant* or *irrelevant*. Because even though we are all created with different Gifts and Abilities- and even though we are called to do different things- there are NO unimportant or irrelevant people in the Church.

But unlike the lost, pagan World- the Worth and Importance of bond-slaves of Jesus should NEVER be measured by things like family Ties; educational Level; political Connections; or even our own Accomplishments- but that God the Father chose; God the Spirit drew; and God the Son suffered, died, and rose for each one. And that is what defines our Worth.

Now one of my "*Heroes of the Faith*"- is an Anglican (Church of England) Bishop, who lived through almost the entire 19th Century- a man named, John Charles (JC) Ryle. And Bishop Ryle said this about the people called to Salvation by Jesus Christ,

"Our Lord has many weak children in his family, many dull pupils in his school, many raw soldiers in his army, many lame sheep in his flock. Yet he bears with them all, and casts none away. Happy is that Christian who has learned to do likewise with his brethren."

Now we are about two years into a verse-by-verse "*Journey*" through the Gospel Record that was written by the Apostle Matthew.

¹ One of the "Gnostic codices" discovered in the "Nag Hammadi Library" in 1945 bears Philip's name in its title, on the bottom line. An early extra-biblical story about St. Philip is preserved in the apocryphal, "*Letter from Peter to Philip*", also one of the texts in the Nag Hammadi Library and dated to the end of the 2nd Century or early 3rd. This text begins with a letter from St. Peter to St. Philip, asking him to rejoin the other Apostles, who had gathered at the Mount of Olives. Bible Historian, Fred Lapham believes that this letter indicates an early Tradition that "*at some point between the Resurrection of Jesus and the final parting of His risen Presence from the Disciples, Philip had undertaken a sole missionary Enterprise, and was, for some reason, reluctant to return to the rest of the Apostles.*"

Later stories about Philip's life can be found in the anonymous, "*Acts of Philip*", probably written by a contemporary of Eusebius. This non-canonical book recounts the preaching and miracles of Philip. According to these accounts, following the Resurrection of Jesus, Philip was sent with his sister, Mariamne and the Apostle, Bartholomew to preach in Greece, Phrygia, and Syria. Included in the *Acts of Philip* is an Appendix, entitled "*Of the Journey of Philip the Apostle: From the Fifteenth Act Until the End, and Among Them the Martyrdom.*" This Appendix gives an embellished Account of Philip's Martyrdom in the city of Hierapolis. According to this Account, through a miraculous Healing and his preaching, Philip converted the wife of the Proconsul of the city. This enraged the Proconsul, and he had Philip, Bartholomew, and Mariamne all tortured. Philip and Bartholomew were then crucified upside down, and Philip preached from his Cross. As a result of Philip's preaching, the crowd released Bartholomew from his Cross, but Philip insisted that they not release him, and Philip died on the Cross. Other Accounts say that Philip was martyred by beheading, rather than Crucifixion, in the city of Hierapolis.

And we have just broken into the 10th Chapter- even though this is the 113th Sermon. Because my Goal in going through the Bible is NOT to simply get finished- but to learn what the biblical writer actually wrote down- as God the Holy Spirit “moved” on him; what he *meant* by what he wrote down; and what Obedience to what he wrote down- looks like in the 21st Century.

Now Matthew is one of ONLY 40 men in the History of the world that experienced the “*Gift of Inspiration*” as he wrote a Book. So, even though Matthew wrote originally in Hebrew; and even though he used his own Terminology; his own figures of Speech; his own Expressions; and his own Logic- *somehow*- and we really don’t know how- but *somehow*- God the Holy Spirit so *superintended* what he wrote- that what he wrote is both Inerrant (*does not contain Error*) and Infallible (*cannot contain Error*) and is part of the “*Cannon of Scripture*”. And so, we can say that this Book- the “*Gospel (Good News) According to Matthew*” is the Word of the one, true, and living God! And that means that of all the Books we read; of all the Knowledge we obtain; and of all the Things we hold dear- this Book- along with 65 other Books that make up the “Holy Bible”- *deserves* to be something that we read and study and understand and know and love and obey.

Around 600 years before Jesus was born- God the Holy Spirit “moved” on the Prophet to speak on behalf of God and say this from **Jeremiah 9:23&24:**

**23 Thus says the Lord, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches;
24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord.**

... so, several things here:

- We are NOT to boast in human Wisdom, Might, or Riches
- We ARE to boast that we UNDERSTAND AND KNOW GOD
- We ARE to boast that we understand and know that the Lord DELIGHTS in Exercising LOVINGKINDNESS, JUSTICE, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS on the earth

... and there is ONLY one Place in all the Universe where we can

understand and know God and where we can understand and know that the Lord DELIGHTS in Exercising LOVINGKINDNESS, JUSTICE, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS on the earth- and that is in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible. And that is *why* I am doing what I am doing.

So, today we meet the Apostle Philip. And Philip is a fascinating person- simply from the Standpoint that he was chosen by Jesus Christ to be part of Jesus' own "*Shahlia*"- a very small Group of twelve men chosen to be the "Apostles" of the Lord. So, I wish we knew more about him than I do- because we simply don't know a lot about this man- because that Knowledge has been lost to us.

But to start with- the name, "*Philip*" is an ancient Greek name (*philos*- love + *hippos*- horses *Philippos*) that means: "*a friend or a lover of horses*". And in the ancient world- King "*Philip II of Macedon*" was the name of Alexander the Great's Father (382-336 BC)- who happened to be an expert horseman.

But Philip the Apostle must have also had a Jewish name because all twelve of Jesus' Apostles were Jewish. But we don't know what his Jewish name was- that has been lost to us through the years. But we do know that his Jewish parents would never have given him a Greek name- so all we can go by is that there is a good chance that he was named the Hebrew equivalent of the Greek- "*lover of horses*"- but we simply don't even know what that might have been.

We do know that Philip was a Jew, who somehow, down through the Centuries, as the Bible was translated into various languages- was given a Greek name- but we just don't know *why*.

Now in order to arrive at the correct Context of the various Passages in the four Gospel Records, things like Names, Languages, and the Culture of that Day MUST be considered. And when trying to do that- it is helpful to remember that, back in the 1st Century, Israel was a "Protectorate" of the Roman Empire.

In other words, during the years that the Gospel Records represent- Israel had NOT had a "King" like David for 1,000 years! So, during Jesus's earthly Ministry- the Jewish Nation had been *occupied* and brutally *subjugated* by pagan Gentiles since Alexander the Great conquered it in 332 BC. And that represents a Time-frame that was nearly five times LONGER than the Babylonian Captivity (70 years)!

So, what was confusing for many Jews- was while the Old Testament predicted the 70 years of Captivity- there was NO Old

Testament Prediction of over 360 years of humiliating Occupation by first, the Greeks and then the Romans! And so, many Jews had gone into total Despair by the Time Jesus entered into His Ministry.

Now please let me try to put that into perspective. For almost 120 years LONGER than the United States has been a Nation- the Jews *agonized* over seeing the Greek, Latin, and Aramaic languages as well as the Cultures of those pagan Empires mixed in with both the Language and Culture that God had given His people.

So, people were naturally upset and confused as to why God had not already driven the Gentiles from the Land that God had given to them. And it was during this Time- that the four major religious Groups formed:

1. The Pharisees
2. The Sadducees
3. The Essenes
4. The Zealots

... and the Scribes were the religious Lawyers that worked primarily with the Pharisees.

Now back during the Time when the Greek Empire ruled over Israel- certain Jews got together to try to *re-capture* what God had given them and what those Gentile Occupiers sought to dilute and eliminate. Those Jews became known as the “*Separated Ones*” or “*Pharisees*”. And even though there was never any more than 6,000 of these men- the Pharisees rose to become the *dominant* Group that had *eclipsed* the Levitical Priests to the point of almost making them irrelevant in the minds of the Jewish people.

But the “*Judaism*” that the Pharisees developed was NOT a faithful Exposition of what God had given to Moses and the Prophets in the Old Testament. The Pharisees *added* many things to what God had revealed to the Old Testament writers and they also took away from that Divine Truth. And so, in effect- the Pharisees *invented* a completely *different* Religion from what God had spoken. And like all Man-made Religions- this one didn't have the Power to forgive and single Sin or save a single Soul.

So, the various Tenets that Jesus rejected and condemned during His Life was NOT what God had given Moses- but what the Pharisees

had invented. What Jesus was doing with what God had given to Moses was to FULFILL it- NOT destroy it. But because those men held themselves out as being the ONLY true Representatives of God- Jesus also had to denounce these religious Frauds- to their face. And that is *why* you can literally feel the Hostility that existed between the Pharisees and Jesus when you read through the four Gospels.

Now the Reason I bring this up in a Series on the twelve Apostles- is because the intense Condemnation that Jesus repeatedly made against the Pharisees was carried forward with the Apostles after Jesus ascended into Heaven. So, in addition to these twelve men being taught the Message of the Kingdom of Heaven- they were also taught that the Pharisees were “snakes in the grass” and had to always either be Converted or Condemned.

And there were three main areas that the Pharisees taught and that Jesus opposed and condemned and that the Apostles followed:

1. The Knowledge of the Old Testament Books that the Pharisees supposedly had
2. The Sabbath
3. The Temple in Jerusalem

Jesus challenged the Pharisees *primarily* on these three Issues- because they formed the Foundation of the false Religion that the Pharisees had developed. For example, Jesus purposefully broke every tenet of the Pharisees’ Teaching about the Sabbath. He also promised that the Temple would be torn down and replaced with Himself. And Jesus did all of this- to prove that the Pharisees did NOT know or understand the Old Testament! And when we read the **Book of the Acts**- we see that the Apostles *continued* this Condemnation of the Pharisees.

Now Philip lived in Bethsaida. So, he grew up in the same town with Peter and Andrew; and must have also been acquainted with both James and John. There is also reason to believe that Philip was either an employee of Peter and Andrew or James and John- or their Partner in the fishing Business- because back in the 1st Century- there wasn’t much else going on in that Region except fishing.

So, here is Jesus- scouring the earth to find the ONLY ones chosen to be His Shahlia- and He finds one little Group of fishermen- just some buddies who knew each other. And Jesus said, “*They will do just fine*”.

Now Philip was probably a close friend of Peter and Andrew because they went to the same Synagogue together; and because they were God-fearing Jews- who were genuinely looking for the Messiah. So, they probably had a lot in common.

Now it's probably true that Philip was a fisherman himself because in **John 21:2&3**- when Peter takes the Disciples back into the fishing Enterprise after the Resurrection- he gets a little discouraged- and he doesn't think he can do what God wants him to do- so he goes fishing. And John says that Philip and Andrew went with him. So, Philip was no doubt a fisherman too- just like the other four.

So, just what do we know about Philip? **Matthew, Mark, and Luke** say nothing. But the **Gospel of John** helps us- so let's turn to **John 1** to get to know this man named Philip. He's an Illustration of a completely different kind of person. He's not like Peter, but he's also not like Andrew, James, or John, either.

But Philip is not at all like his buddy- "*Nathanael*"- who was also called, "*Bartholomew*"- even though he was always listed next to him; and they are always seen together. Yet Philip's not like any of those other five men- he's very unique. So, let's see how we first meet him in **John 1:43-51**:

43 The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me."

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter.

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 any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

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

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."

49 Nathanael answered 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 that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

51 And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens

opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Now people always ask me, "*What's the Resolution between Sovereign Election and Human Responsibility? How do we resolve these two seemingly contradictory Truths?*" Well, here's a perfect Illustration how these two mysterious Forces exist together- and yet never interfere with each other. Verse 43 says the Lord found Philip. Yet, at the very same time- Philip felt that *he* had found the Lord. He said in verse 45, "*We have found Him.*"

So, to Philip- he was the one who found Jesus. But, in reality- from God's Perspective- Jesus is the One Who found Philip. So, what do we say about this? Here is what we say: Philip said what he said based on all that he saw and knew and experienced. But we also have to say that Philip had real BAD Theology- because humans usually don't have a Clue as to what God is doing behind the Scenes.

From a finite and limited human Perspective- this was the End of Philip's search for the Messiah. But in Reality- from God's unlimited and Divine Perspective- God had been drawing Philip to Himself all along. And God had been mercifully and sovereignly opening his eyes; unstopping his deaf ears; and taking out of him a stony heart; and giving him a heart of Flesh; and gracing Philip with the Gift of saving Faith- so Philip could see and hear and believe and be saved.

Now how do we know this is true? Because this is the Way God saves *everybody*. So, what we have to realize is that God moves *first*. God *initiates*. God *creates*. God moves toward the elected Sinners- *first*- and then the Sinner *responds* to what God has already done *in* him; *to* him; and *for* him. But *why* can't the Sinner move *first*? Sinners *can't* move first- they *can't* initiate their own Salvation- because every single lost soul on earth is "spiritually Dead" (**Ephesians 2:1**).

And this is one of the best Ways to understand this powerful and deep Mystery. From our own human Perspective- we are seeking after God; we are wanting to find Him. And suddenly, we hear; and we voluntarily choose to repent; and believe to be saved. That is the Way Salvation *appears* to work from the perspective of one who is saved but who does NOT know what the Bible teaches.

But the Reality is very different. And once that individual begins to read the Bible- he sees something very different from what he thought had happened to him. Because the Truth of Scripture says that

it is God the Father, Who sovereignly chooses us for Salvation from before the Foundation of the world. And it is God the Holy Spirit Who effectually draws us to Jesus and grants to us the Miracle of the New Birth. And with those new eyes- that chosen Sinner beholds the Glory of God in the Person of Jesus Christ (**2Corinthians 4:6**). And, *initially*, he sees the great Contrast between himself and the risen Christ- and he is burdened down with heavy Conviction over his Sins. And then that individual is empowered by God the Holy Spirit- to genuinely *hate* his Sin and *turn* from it (Repent).

And with that new heart- the Sinner knows that Jesus is his ONLY Hope. And so, he believes; and puts his Hope and Trust in Jesus and in His finished Work. And when that happens- the individual is “justified”- he is forgiven and “made” Righteous. But now he able to see the Beauty and the Glory and the Worth of Jesus- and he *loves* what he sees. And that puts him on the Path to be *progressively* changed into what he sees (**2Corinthians 3:18**).

So, what we need to understand is that “*Human Responsibility*” is real. It is true. And so, we are now; and we will *always* be “held Accountable” by God for what we do on this earth; and for the Choices we make. So, even though God is absolutely Sovereign over everything- all the time- we are *always* Responsible before God for what we think; and what we do; and what we say; and what we believe.

And so, it is Human Responsibility that allows for God to judge us and damn us to Hell- if we do not choose and do the “Right” thing. And that is true- because we are *responsible* for our own Actions. So, we need to understand that God does NOT *force* anyone to sin. People sin because they *want* to- because they voluntarily *choose* to sin.

So, as lost and fallen souls- EVERYTHING we do- EVERYTHING we choose- is Sin. And we are fine with that. Lost people LOVE the Darkness rather than the Light (**John 3:19**). And so, we choose what we love. And *all* that lost people love- is Sin and Self!

Left to themselves- without a gracious Intervention by God- lost people would NEVER voluntarily choose God or the things of God. And they DO NOT choose God- because they CANNOT. And they CANNOT- because they don’t *want* to!

But the Opposite is also true. So, left to themselves- without a gracious Intervention by God- lost people will ONLY choose Sin. And because they *willfully* and *voluntarily* choose Sin instead of Jesus- God

will hold them *fully* Responsible and will damn them to Hell!

But while “*Human Responsibility*” exists and is true- “*Human Free-will*” does NOT exist and is NOT true. Now please listen to this- because it is very Important. We humans choose many things. And we are “free” to choose- but only to a point. Because our Ability to choose is in bondage to what we love; what we desire; and what we want. So, without coercion, human beings will NEVER choose contrary to what we love; what we desire; and what we want. But we really can’t stop there- because there is more to understand.

Because now we need to answer these Questions, “*Why do we love what we love? Why do we want what we want? And why do we desire what we desire?*” You see, we do NOT love in a vacuum any more than we choose in a vacuum. So, all of our Loves; Wants; and Desires are in bondage to our “Natures”. So, our Natures *dictate* what we love; want; and desire.

But what kind of “Nature” do lost people have? The Bible says that all lost people have a “fallen”; “rebellious”; and “sinful” Nature. And that corrupted Nature ONLY produces corrupted Loves; Wants; and Desires. And those corrupted Loves; Wants; and Desires produce ONLY Choices and Decisions that have NOTHING to do with God or His Glory. Those Choices and Decisions pertain ONLY to Sin and Self. And in that Condition- ALL we can do- is to sin against God.

This is why we MUST be “born again”. Because it is in the Miracle of the New Birth where we are given a new Nature that produces new Loves- which produce new Choices that pertain to God and His Glory. And in that Condition- we have the Blessing of being able to love and obey God.

And that is the very best Way for us to understand the relation between “Sovereign Election” and “Human Responsibility”.

Now Philip had been a true Jew. And he had been committed to the Old Testament. Look again at what Philip said in verse 45, “*We have found Him.*” Well, just Who are you talking about, Philip?

(the One)... of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Now the phrase, the “**Law and the Prophets**” is *shorthand* for the 39 Books of the Old Testament. So, Philip is saying here- we've studied the Old Testament; and we know who we're looking for- we're looking

for the Messiah! And we found the Messiah! And you'll never believe it- Nathaniel- but the Messiah is Jesus of Nazareth- the Son of Joseph!

Now Bethsaida was north of Nazareth, up in that Galilean area- not very far away. And Nathanael just can't believe what Philip is telling him. Nathanael knows that Nazareth has a terrible Reputation of a town filled with Sin of every sort. And so, he says to Philip, "*Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?*" In other words, "*You've got to be kidding, Philip- Nazareth?*"

In other words- Nathaniel was saying that if this guy is really the Messiah- wouldn't He be in Jerusalem rather than Nazareth? I mean it just didn't make any sense. Jerusalem is sacred in the mind of the Jew. And, after all, Jerusalem is the Capitol- it's the City of David; and that's where the Temple is; and where the Sanhedrin Court meets. All that Nazareth is known for- is its Sin.

But Philip had studied the Old Testament; and he had studied Moses; and the Law and the Prophets. You see people used to get saved after they had read and studied the Word of God. In other words- it used to be common for lost people to read and study the Bible. And through their Study- God used God's own Words to draw them to Salvation. Today, it's hard to even get even supposedly saved people to read and study their Bibles. But back then- lost people read and studied their Bibles and were saved because of that.

So, Philip had studied the Bible and as a Result- he was earnestly looking for the Messiah. And now he was at the End of his Search. "*We found Him.*" So, no human brought Philip to Jesus- he was like Simeon- he was one who was earnestly looking for the "Consolation of Israel" and was earnestly looking for the Messiah. So, no one had to bring him to Jesus- Jesus drew Philip to Himself- Sovereignly! Please turn with me real quick to **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.

So, before he was ever saved- Philip was a Student of the Old Testament- the Law and the Prophets. And he was looking for the Messiah. And when it came Time in the sovereign Plan of God- Jesus put His Finger on Philip and said, "**Follow Me!**" And Philip, so excited, found his buddy, Nathanael, and said, "*We found Him!*"

What a great Beginning, right? No Reluctance! No Doubt! No Disbelief! He's just so elated, so thrilled that he just followed. He got caught up, I think, in the Emotion of the moment. And I think his Faith was real, but was very weak- as the later Passages about him tell us. But it was a very good Beginning. He didn't make any Effort to find more Information to check things out- he just embraced the Fact that the Messiah was Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph!

Now it just didn't seem like that's the Way it *should* be- but it's okay if that's the Way it was. So, this was the End of the Search. And that's Philip. Now as we study Philip- don't confuse him with the "Philip" who was the Deacon in **The Acts 6** and **8**- who, later became an Evangelist. That's a *different* Philip.

Now please turn again to **John 6**- and let's look a little more at Philip. Now we're going to get from the spiritual side of things. We know he was an Old Testament Student. We know he loved the Old Testament Scriptures. We know he believed in a Messiah. And when Messiah came and said, "*Follow Me*," he gladly embraced Jesus as his Messiah and followed Him.

So, we know the spiritual Side- his heart was right. Philip had a "seeking heart"- because God had already regenerated him. But now here's his Personality starting to show through. In **John 6:5-7**- we see a Test that Jesus gave to Philip:

5 Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?"

6 This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.

7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little."

Now we know how large this crowd was, because verse 10 says there were five thousand men- which could mean there were also five thousand women and maybe up to fifteen thousand or more children. So, this is a huge crowd. And Jesus asks Philip, "**Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?**" So, why did Jesus ask Philip that Question? Verse 6 says it was to test him. And from that we can speculate that Jesus probably did this often- He *tested* the Apostles.

Now some have speculated that Philip was the “apostolic Accountant”- maybe the Administrator. Maybe Philip was the guy who whether officially or unofficially was the guy who always worried about the Possibility of everything. He was the guy who, in every Meeting, would have said, *“I don't think we can do that.”* He was the Master of the Impossible, and most everything Jesus did- fit into that Category for him.

So, in verse 6- Jesus “... **was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.**” But Jesus wasn't testing Philip so He could find out what Philip was like. No, Jesus was testing Philip so that the Lord could reveal to Philip what Jesus was like. Jesus was God and was Omniscient and already knew what Philip was thinking.

So, all of a sudden, Jesus sees this massive Crowd and He says, *“Philip, you're usually in charge of arrangements, in charge of administrating things, could you tell us where we're going to get bread to feed this crowd?”*

Now Jesus knew *exactly* what Philip was thinking- he had already started counting heads. So, when the crowd started milling around- Philip was standing over there going, one, two, three...

So, it's late in the day and this is a huge crowd. And they're going to be hungry. And eating in those days wasn't an easy thing because there weren't any fast-food restaurants. And so, Jesus says this right out of the blue, *“Where we going to buy bread that these may eat?”* And Philip in verse 7 answered, *“Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them for everyone to receive a little.”*

Now Jesus knew that Philip had already calculated that. He had been thinking about it before Jesus asked him. So, instead of thinking, *“Oh what a glorious Occasion that Jesus could teach so many people! What a tremendous Opportunity for the Lord!”*- Philip was over there worrying about what they were going to do with all those people.

Now Philip had been there when the Lord created wine out of water. And he had seen Miracles of healing and casting out of demons. And yet, when he sees this great crowd- he's already beginning to feel the Impossible. *“Oh boy, it's dinner time and if we could collect two hundred denarii, we still couldn't feed this crowd a snack. So, we're in big trouble here!”*

The Supernatural always escapes these kinds of people. They're just very material in their thinking. So, Jesus wants to give him a Test, so he'll see what he's really like. And he responded with open Unbelief, that it just can't be done! It simply *cannot* be done!

Now a denarius is one day's Wages- so Philip was saying, two hundred days Wages, or eight months of work is not enough!

So, instead of relishing the Moment that all those people get to hear the only perfect Preacher give a perfect Sermon so some of them will be saved- Philip is standing over there saying, *"It can't be done!"*

You know, his Calculations would have gone like this, *"One denarius would buy twelve wheat biscuits, one denarius would buy 36 barley biscuits, barley's cheaper...if we get the biscuit the size of a hand and one and a half inches thick...nah, it can't be done. It can't be done."* Pessimistic, Analytical, and Pragmatic. Sad isn't it?

Now one of the supreme Essentials of true Leadership is a sense of the Possible- *especially* if you're hanging around the Incarnate God. But Philip knew too much Arithmetic to be Adventurous. He *should* have said, *"Lord, if You want to feed them- go ahead and feed them. And I'll just stand back and watch how You do it. You can do it, Lord- so, do it! And we'll tell everybody to get in line, while You just create the food!"* That would have been great, wouldn't it?

On the other hand, you have Andrew, verse 8, and every time we see Andrew, what's he doing? He's bringing someone to Jesus. So, here comes Andrew. And Andrew said to Jesus, **"There's a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?"**

So, Andrew had a slight glimmer of what Jesus could do. He had already seen Jesus turn water into wine- so, who knows what He can do with two little pickled fish and five crackers! And Andrew's little Faith was honored in a very big Way. So, Philip lost the Opportunity; and a little boy brought in by Andrew seized it!

You see, Philip was a Materialist. He was the man of practical things. He was the "common- sense guy". He was the "measurements guy". He was the "methods guy". He was the "mechanical guy" with just a little Understanding of the Supernatural. But Philip was more interested in Facts and Figures than Faith.

But I do want you to see one last thing about Philip in **John 14:6-12** and this is kind of sad, honestly. It is very sad.

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who 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 initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

12 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.

Now you would hope that by the time you get to this Point that Philip could operate in Faith- at least to *some* degree. Because this is over two years after he's been chosen; over two years after he's been in the Process of being trained; over two years of Teaching by Jesus under his belt; over two years of seeing Jesus perform Miracles; two years of Healings; over two years of casting out demons; over two years of intimate day in and day out, 24 hours a day seven days a week Fellowship with Jesus has gone by. And here, we meet Philip again and this is in the opening of the Upper Room Discourse, the Night of Jesus' Betrayal.

And Jesus told them, "*You CANNOT come to God except through Me.*" So, it is no longer enough for people to say, "*I believe in God*". From now on- they have to say, "*I believe Jesus IS God!*" or they CANNOT be saved.

And then Jesus adds to what He just said, "**If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.**"

But then Philip speaks up and says, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Oh brother, come on! What do you mean, "show us the Father?" Where have you been? "Jesus said to him, "**Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?**" How can you possibly be saying, "show us the Father?"

Now this is very discouraging- especially since Jesus knows this is the last night He will spend with these men before His Death. "*So, what do you think has been going on these years? Two years of intimate Association,*

what do you think has been going on all this Time, Philip? What have you learned from all that I have said and done?"

And then Jesus said this in verses 10 &11,

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 initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

"Do you not believe, Philip? Believe! I can tell you don't believe. Now you believe I'm the Messiah, fine. And you believe I'm a miracle worker. But somehow, you're tendency toward Skepticism has allowed you not to make the ultimate Conclusion that you are in the Presence of the living and eternal God Himself!"

So, Jesus went from *"Do you not believe?"* in verse 10, to *"Believe! Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me! There's no other Explanation. You don't need further Miracles!"*

"What are you saying, Philip? What do you think I've been doing all this time- except showing you the Father?" For almost three years this man, Philip, had gazed into the only Face of God that he would ever see on earth. And yet, it still wasn't clear to him. His Materialism, his Skepticism, his Small-mindedness shut him off from a full Apprehension of whose Presence he had enjoyed all that time!

So, Philip was a man of limited Ability. He was a man of limited Faith. He was a man of imperfect Understanding. He was skeptical, analytical, pessimistic, reluctant, unsure, and wanted to go by the book all the time. Facts and figures controlled his life to the point- he never got the big picture of Divine Power, Divine Person and Grace. Slow to understand, slow to trust, it seemed like his Life was limited by Circumstances, Money, Rules, and Proof.

But before you condemn this man- think about this. Jesus prayed all night long to choose this man. So, Jesus *personally* chose Philip. So, with all his Faults, Philip was *exactly* what Jesus was looking for. And, like Peter; Andrew; James and John, over time- God made Philip into a great Preacher and a part of the Foundation of the Church! And Philip will be a Ruler in the Kingdom!

I tell you that God uses people like Philip. Lots of them! And so, Tradition tells us that Philip became so faithful to Jesus; so devout; so loyal- that he wouldn't recant his Faith in Jesus- even when he was

under the Roman Persecution. And because he was so great an Apostle; so great a bond-slave of Jesus; because he was such a Threat to satan and all the hordes of demons; and because he exposed the false Teaching of the religious Hypocrites- they stripped Philip of his clothes; put steel rods through his ankles and thighs; and they hung him by those upside down on an odd shaped Cross- that is now known as “Philip’s Cross”- to die slowly and painfully.

And, according to the Tradition, as he was dying- he requested that they NOT wrap him in a linen garment- because that’s what they did with Jesus and Philip said he was not worthy to receive such Care after his Death.

So even though Philip had all those Drawbacks- Jesus loved him; and Jesus chose him; and Jesus taught him. And even after the Resurrection and Ascension- God the Holy Spirit led and taught and trained Philip until he did become a great Man of God- who was used by God to herald the glorious Gospel into areas of modern Greece; Syria; and Turkey- where Tradition says his tomb is located.

So, from all this we must say that God chooses all sorts of people. And those people are drawn to Jesus with all sorts of Baggage- like Peter; like Andrew; like James and John; and like Philip. But as those chosen vessels yield themselves to the Fires of Sanctification- God will burn away all the Hay; Wood; and Stubble and God will use those people for His Glory. And that is true with all of us- today!

Amen. Let’s pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.

