

Episode 2: I Saw You

In this episode we meet two new disciples, Philip and Nathanael. The episode opens with Nathanael at a job site where he is the architect of a building that is being constructed. Something goes wrong and the building collapses and Nathanael loses his job. Nathanael is so upset and heads to the bar.

At the bar, Nathanael is talking as if someone died. He is devastated that he lost his job and the building collapsed. You can tell he put his whole identity into being an architect. He worked hard in school to learn his profession; he was involved at the sites and still he failed. Have you ever felt that you put your identity into your profession or hobby or talent? How did it feel when you lost that job, hobby or talent?

Later Nathanael sits under a fig tree and cries out to the Lord. He feels like he has hit rock bottom. Luckily for Nathanael, his friend Philip comes looking for him and that closed door with his job opened another door that will totally change his life. We will come back to this at the end of the episode.

A new character enters Jesus' ministry and his "I will" is quick and decisive. Philip meets up with Simon and Andrew as he was looking for Jesus. In the following verses circle where Philip is from.

- Philip becomes a disciple of Jesus.
 - **John 1:43-44 (ESV)** – ⁴³ *The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."* ⁴⁴ *Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.*
 - Philip is mentioned in the following verses in the gospel of John 6:5-7, 12:20-22, 14:6-10.
- Philip is thought to have been a follower of John the Baptist, like Andrew. Circle how many disciples were with John the Baptist below:
 - **John 1:35-37 (ESV)** – ³⁵ *The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,* ³⁶ *and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"* ³⁷ *The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.*
- Circle below the name of Jesus' disciple who was also a disciple of John the Baptist.
 - **John 1:38-44 (ESV)** - ³⁸ *Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?"* *And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"* ³⁹ *He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day for it was about the tenth hour.* ⁴⁰ *One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.* ⁴¹ *He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ).* ⁴² *He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).* ⁴³ *The next day*

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

- As you can see this is a little different from the way it was portrayed in The Chosen. But the assumption is the second disciple of John the Baptist (verse 35) is Philip. Andrew is named as one of the disciples and the next person that is mentioned is Philip when he was asked to follow Jesus.

Philip plays the role of a peacemaker in The Chosen. He is kind to Matthew when others are not nice to him because of his past. I love when Philip says to Matthew, **"People want to define us by our past, but we do things differently because of him (Jesus)."** This is a great reminder that we aren't defined by the things we did in the past. Jesus forgave your sins; you are different because Jesus made you a new creation. Re-read what Philip said to Matthew if you really needed to hear that today!

It's very clear that Simon and Matthew don't get along. While Philip plays the peacemaker, Simon just can't make peace with Matthew because of his old profession as a tax collector. Simon picks on Matthew for writing things down. Matthew said he is writing it down because he wants it to be recorded. Simon says he shouldn't write it down because people will twist Jesus' words. What are your thoughts on these arguments? How do you see both played out in our world today? The truth of the bible vs how people use or discredit the bible for their agendas.

Mary Magdalene and Ramah, talk with Matthew about learning and the bible. Mary is going to teach Ramah how to read but they need paper from Matthew. Matthew wants to learn more about the bible too. He realizes how much he doesn't know compared to the other disciples but none of them know where exactly to start. Matthew decides to ask Philip, his new friend. Philip reminds Matthew that learning about God doesn't happen overnight. It is a process. This is so true. The bible is the living breathing word of God. There is always

Bible Reference

Philip refers to the book of Ezekiel when he talks about drying the wood. The verses that he quotes and the other disciples join in reciting are listed below:

***Ezekiel 39:9-10 (ESV)** ⁹ Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and make fires of the weapons and burn them, shields and bucklers, bow and arrows, clubs and spears; and they will make fires of them for seven years, ¹⁰ so that they will not need to take wood out of the field or cut down any out of the forests, for they will make their fires of the weapons. They will seize the spoil of those who despoiled them, and plunder those who plundered them, declares the Lord God.*

DID YOU KNOW??

It was very common for Jews to have scripture memorized. Have you challenged yourself to memorize any scripture lately? Pick a verse that means something to you, write it below and commit it to memory.

something to learn! A passage that you have read in the past may speak to you differently in this stage of your life. Matthew has a desire to learn and that is such an important quality in a Christian. How would you describe your knowledge of the bible? Do you desire to learn more? Where are you going to start?

Philip finds Nathanael (Bartholomew) and introduces him to Jesus. Let's dive into scripture and see how this plays out. Underline where Jesus saw Nathanael. Circle Nathanael's response to Jesus.

- **John 1:45-50 (ESV)** – 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 anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward 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 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 him, “Because I said to you ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

Nathanael believed in Jesus because he knew Jesus was with him at his lowest point under the fig tree. He wasn't alone though; God was with him and knew who he truly was. Despite knowing Nathanael's failure, God was with him at that dark moment. He is always with you and me. We do not have to feel ashamed of failure, or alone. We are never alone; God is with us! I love that Jesus said “You will see greater things than these” in verse 50. What an amazing journey Nathanael has coming up. As Jesus' disciple he will witness firsthand miracles and healings and learn so much.

Even though we saw Nathanael's lose his job and he was disappointed in his career, his failure led to something so much better than he could have even imagined. He got to follow Jesus Christ! He became a disciple and lived his life with the Son of God. If you are going through something disappointing or a failure, how does knowing this comfort you? Have you seen failure or disappointment play out similarly for you? Reflect below and thank God.

Nathanael was also known as Bartholomew in the bible. See Matthew 10:1-4, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:12-16 and Acts 1:13.
