

A GOOD MAN GETS SAVED
JOHN 1:47 / 7-14-19 / PM

I. NATHANAEL'S LIFE.

- A. Nathanael's name means "**Gift of God**".
- B. He was also known as Bartholomew.
 - a. In the Synoptics, Bartholomew's name always follows Philip's name.
 - b. In John's gospel the name Nathanael follows Philip and there is no mention of Bartholomew.
 - c. Therefore, it's assumed that both names refer to the same man.
- C. The name Bartholomew means "**son of Tolmai**". So this must be his father's name.
- D. He was from Cana in Galilee where Jesus performed his first miracle—John 21:2.
- E. He is mentioned 10 times in the four gospels and Acts.
- F. Philip told him about Jesus—John 1:45.
- G. He doubted the Messiah could come from Nazareth—John 1:46.
- H. Either Nathanael was showing his prejudice concerning Nazareth or he knew that Micah 5 prophesied the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
- I. After Jesus commended Nathanael (1:47) he told him that he saw him under the fig tree displaying a supernatural knowledge—John 1:48.
- J. Nathanael was the first disciple to declare that Jesus was the Son of God and Messiah—John 1:49.
- K. Jesus told Nathanael that he would see even greater things if he was willing to follow him—John 1:50-51.
- L. Nathanael, along with the other disciples, saw the resurrected Christ in Galilee—John 21:1-2.
- M. Nathanael, along with the other disciples, witnessed the ascension of Jesus into Heaven—Acts 1:13.
- N. Eusebius, a 4th century Christian historian, says Nathanael went to India to share the gospel. Tradition says that he also went to Armenia where he was crucified as a martyr.

II. NATHANAEL'S WEAKNESSES.

- A. He was a born skeptic ("Can anything good come out of Nazareth?").
- B. Like the other disciples, he left Jesus at the cross.

III. NATHANAEL'S LESSONS.

- A. Christian friends are important for our faith—Prov. 27:17.
- B. The reverse is also true. Non-Christian friends can hinder our faith.
- C. Our knowledge of Scripture is important to our faith.
- D. Nathanael may have required seeing Jesus before believing he was the Messiah. (Philip said to him, "Come and See"). It's been said that seeing isn't always believing but that believing is seeing!
- E. Jesus knows us before we know him—Jer. 1:5.
- F. Our personal prejudices and preconceived notions can hinder or skew our knowledge of spiritual truth ("Can anything good come out of Nazareth?").
- G. Honest doubt doesn't disqualify us from knowing and being accepted by God.
- H. God commands us to seek him ("Come and See")—Matt. 7:7-8.