



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 1:43-51  
From Sermon 3.5.23

Read *John 1:43-51*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: We continue in our mock courtroom with these new disciple witnesses being called to the stand. Last week, we heard from 1/3 of the 12 [Andrew, Peter, John, & James]. In this passage, Philip and Nathanael. Not only does the narrative continue building toward Jesus' ultimate ministry and the birth of the Church, but we are compelled to look at these ordinary men and ask: how are people called to Christ and who is called to Christ? It is clear: God is sovereign even over salvation.

1. What did learn about Philip? Also from Galilee/Bethsaida. Knew the Old Testament. Immediate fruit resulting from conversion-evangelism—found Nathanael.

1a. What did we learn about Nathanael? Also called Bartholomew. Also knew the Scriptures. Realized Messiah should come from Judea/Bethlehem, not Nazareth. Was a righteous guy. [Side note: he was from Cana in Galilee. Important for the study in chapter 2]

2. What was Philip's testimony regarding Jesus? The One wrote about by Moses and the Prophets

2a. What was Nathanael's testimony? Jesus is the Son of God & the rightful King of Israel

3. From the text, Jesus obviously sought out, found, and called Philip. But did Nathanael find Jesus? No. Jesus foreordained and orchestrated Nathanael's calling long ago. In the text, Nathanael is responding to God's grace. See also *John 15:16 & Ephesians 1:4-5 & 11*

4. Many denominations, churches, and believers are moving away from doctrine, as if it does not matter. Commonly rejected are the doctrines of total depravity and unconditional election. What was the danger, highlighted on Sunday, with this trend? Various answers. If we believe man is sovereign over his own salvation, and not God, we will soon construct a god who is relative—changes with the times, not concerned with immutable Law, redefines sin, allows a worldly attractive Gospel and evangelism approach... See also *Acts 2:36-39, Galatians 1:6-8, & 2 Timothy 4:1-4*

5. God is so sovereign in salvation that the Bible refers to the transformative work in the elect in the past tense. See *Romans 8:29-30*. What was the other somewhat startling truth pointed out regarding the illustrations/word pictures/symbolism used to describe the elect & non-elect? We have no examples of Jesus turning goats into sheep or tares into wheat. Discuss.

6. Should any of these truths effect our evangelism efforts and approaches? Not in terms of distribution. We are to preach and share and invite all. We do not know who are goats and who are sheep—who are tares and who is wheat. God does. We are just to remain faithful, welcome all, and preach the Word. It should, however, effect our wording and presentation. God must be shared as both love and righteousness. We cannot just portray Him as just some Santa Claus God who completes their almost already perfect life.