

**Jesus, Jacob's Ladder**  
**The Gospel of John: That You May Believe | John 1:43-51**  
Southern Hills Baptist Church  
August 28, 2016

**Introduction:** To fully understand and appreciate the Old Testament you have to know what it points to and what it is driving towards. Many miss this as they stop at the surface of the stories, laws, prophecies, and poetry. What the New Testament reveals is that the Old Testament is all about Jesus, He is the main character of every story, the point of every law, the substance of every shadow (Luke 24:27; Col 2:17). This truth brings the Old Testament to life in a new way and it is taught and demonstrated in our passage tonight!

**The Setting: 2 Invitations (vs. 43-46)**

- **Invitation 1 – Jesus Invites Philip to Follow Him**
  - Something to take note of is the variation in the calls that Jesus has made upon His disciples. Jesus questioned Andrew and John, He spoke prophetically to Peter, He sought out Philip.
  - **Application:** There is great beauty in seeing Jesus tailor each calling to what He knows each man needed. Jesus knows you better than you know you. You are not a number to Jesus, He knows you intimately and will pursue you with what He knows you need.
- **Invitation 2 – Philip Invites Nathanael to Come and See**
  - Philip goes to tell Nathanael the good news, that the Messiah who has been prophesied of is here! While Nathanael shows skepticism, Philip challenges him to “come and see.”

**The Miracle: Jesus' Divine Knowledge (vs. 47-48)**

- As Nathanael approaches Jesus, Jesus displays divine knowledge about Nathanael's character as well as how he has spent his time. Jesus has knowledge that would be impossible to others because the “Spirit of Knowledge” rests upon Him (Isa 11:1-2).
- **Application:** Just like Nathanael, Jesus knows your heart.
  - He knows what weighs heavily on you.
  - He knows what you are passionate about.
  - He knows the secret worries you are carrying.
  - He knows who you are at the deepest levels of who you are.

What an incredible Savior! And He ever lives to make intercession for us with the Father (Heb 7:25)! Who better to have praying for us!?

**The Response: Nathanael's Words of Praise (vs. 49)**

- Nathanael responds to Jesus' divine wisdom by ascribing titles of worship to Jesus.
  - **Rabbi** – This was a title used for a teacher who held great influence in your life. As Messiah, Jesus was more than a teacher, He is Lord.
  - **Son of God** – This title speaks to the nature of Jesus, He is God, just as His Father in Heaven (John 5:18).
  - **King of Israel** – This is a messianic title used repeatedly in the Old Testament (Zec 9:9). Jesus is the promised savior!
- **Application:** How will you respond to the Jesus when you encounter Him in the Scriptures? Nathanael responded in praise! Praise should characterize our lives as we are daily confronted with the glory of Jesus!

**The Promise: Greater Things! (vs. 50-51)**

- Jesus responds to Nathanael's faith with an incredible promise. He promises greater things, greater works, greater miracles, a greater showing of God's power and salvation. Nathanael had only had a small taste of Jesus' power. What was coming was so much better!
- What was coming? Jesus explains that He is the ladder, the stairway to Heaven, that was depicted in Jacob's dream (Gen 28:10-17). He will be the one and only access point to God. He will be the conduit of God's grace and work. He will be the channel for God's revealed truth!
- **Application:** Jesus is our sufficiency! When we have Jesus, we have everything! He has come down bringing truth, purchasing salvation, reconciling men and women to God, that we might go back up with Him!

