

## THE BIG IDEA: WHO we have in common is more powerful than WHAT we don't.

### The Take-Off

This week marks a bit of a turn as we move from the first group of 4 disciples to the next 4 - and turn our attention to some members of the Party of Twelve who we don't know as much about.

So we'll be relying on scripture as well as what tradition tells us about some of these men.

But even though we may not know as much about all of these men, we still know this: Jesus called them.

That's a HUGE takeaway from what we'll learn about the lesser known disciples: when **who we have in common is more powerful than what we don't** we can rest assured that we're just as valuable to the work of Jesus as those we might consider "more gifted" than us

Jesus chooses and uses all who will take up their cross and follow him.

Period.

That's powerful, but it's not the only takeaway from the next 2 we'll look at in the Party of Twelve

Today, it's Philip and Bartholomew

Let's start with Philip

### 1. Philip

- a. The narrative of Philip's first encounter with Jesus is found in John 1
- b. Jesus calls him in verse 43, but let's get the whole context
  - John 1:29-34 / John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the Messiah
  - John 1:35-36 / John points this out to 2 of his disciples
  - John 1:37 / The 2 disciples follow Jesus
- c. 1 of those disciples is Andrew (we've already met him in our series) but the other isn't named
- d. Many believe that the unnamed disciple is Philip - more on that later
- e. John 1:43 / Jesus calls Philip to follow him
- f. There is more to see in John 1, but hold your place there for now and let's peek at 2 other times in Philip's life and see what we can learn from them first
  - John 6:5-7 / Philip was practical, a thinker, and a planner / he didn't know exactly how much it would take but knew it would take more than they had / Jesus didn't chastise him for his answer
  - John 14:8-9 / Philip still didn't quite get it / Jesus said they'd seen the Father in him, but Philip asks to see the Father anyway
- g. Philip wasn't perfect, but **Philip was a conduit** - he allowed Jesus to use him questions and all
- h. He helped distribute the food to the 5,000 even though it didn't match up with his blueprint
- i. He was invited to allow the Holy Spirit to do greater works through him than even Jesus (even though he didn't quite understand the Father-Son dynamic of Jesus and God)
- j. Back to John 1 for one last thought about Philip
- k. Why do many believe he was the unnamed disciple who left John the Baptist with Andrew to follow Jesus?
- l. Because when Philip told Nathaniel about Jesus, he used the same words Jesus had spoken to him
- m. John 1:39 / Jesus said "Come and you will see"
- n. John 1:46 / Philip said "Come and see"
- o. Are you a conduit? Are you willing to take the words God speaks to you and speak them to the ones he leads you to?

### 2. Bartholomew

- a. We've already been talking about Bartholomew but he was disguised by his other name, Nathaniel!
- b. Most scholars believe that Nathaniel and Bartholomew are the same person - it was actually pretty common for people to have multiple names in Bible times
- c. So let's peek again at how Bart (or Nate) met Jesus in John 1
  - John 1:45 / Philip found him and told him about Jesus
  - John 1:46 / He refutes that someone as great as the Messiah could come from somewhere as bad as Nazareth
    - Nazareth is never mentioned in the OT
    - It had become a barrack for Roman soldiers

- Those troops brought with them their gods, sins, and their oppression of the Jews
- It's easy to see why Nathaniel could have felt like nothing good could come from there!
- John 1:48 / Jesus reveals himself to Nathaniel
- John 1:50 / Jesus invites him to see greater things
- d. Some takeaways from Bartholomew's (Nathaniel's) life:
- e. He was skeptical of an entire region and those who came from it (are we guilty of this, too?)
- f. **Bartholomew was skeptical of Jesus and was still used by Jesus** (we can be, too!)
- g. Jesus found Nathaniel before Philip did (John 1:48) - who has Jesus prepared for the gospel and how long will we make them wait for us to bring it to them?

## The Landing

What we learn from Philip and Bartholomew is that God wants us to be conduits of his grace and that his grace can be found in the most unlikely of places

Both of these require that we actually get up and go - that we carry the grace into the place where God has people waiting to receive it

If you're willing to do that, stand up - I want to commission you to be conduits of a grace-soaked gospel!

Let's pray