

The Gospel of John

The First Disciples

John 1:37-51

With the public announcement of the Christ, people soon began to follow Christ. Almost immediately Christ began to call certain individuals to follow Him. These men He chose from various backgrounds to carry His message to the world after training them for over three years.

What is a Disciple?

- Disciples were those who learned from great teachers
- Many of the famous Greek philosophers had disciples
- Christ's disciples were picked by Him - John 6:70
- There were more than 12 disciples - Luke 6:13
 - Lists of the twelve – Matthew 10:2-4 and Luke 6:13-16
- The Twelve (minus Iscariot) became known as Apostles (“ones sent forth”)
- Requirements of Apostle
 - Chosen by God – John 6:70
 - Witness of Christ's life from baptism to ascension – Acts 1:22

Purpose of the Disciples

- Carry on the work of Christ
- Be witnesses of Christ's Resurrection
- Carry the Gospel to the world

The First Disciples

- Came from the followers of John the Baptist – John 1:35-37
- Recognized Christ's leadership – v. 38
- Spread the news of finding Christ – vs. 41
- Brought others to Christ – vs. 42
- Individually called by Christ – vs. 43

The Case of Nathanael

- Nathanael (“gift of God”) evidently was not one of the Twelve, but was a follower of Christ – 21:2
- Phillip sought him out and told him of finding the Messiah – vs. 45

- Nathanael doesn't believe and makes excuse – vs. 46
- Christ sees them coming and calls out to them – vs. 47
 - “an Israelite indeed” - a true son of Abraham after the flesh and spirit
 - “in whom is no guile” - honest and true, righteous
- Jesus knows Nathanael: - vs. 48
 - Before Nathanael knew him
 - Knew private details about Nathanael
- Nathanael acknowledges Christ's Deity and Role as Messiah – vs. 49
- Christ's tells Nathanael that he'll see more wonderful things than this! - vs. 50
- The divine nature of what is to come – vs. 51