

9/16/18

### The Apostle Philip

The men God has used from the beginning of time are men who are imperfect and failed God.

1. Noah after the flood laid drunk and naked in his tent.
  2. Abraham did not obey to depart till the death of his father and he said his wife was his sister to save his own skin,, being rebuked by the unbeliever.
  3. Jacob was a scammer of scammers, second only to his mother.
  4. David was an adulterer, murderer and a horrible father.
  5. Jonah was carnal and self willed, unwilling to see the worst of sinners saved.
  6. The twelve apostles were no different.
- \* Here is what makes a difference, when men yield to God and walk in the Spirit!

Philip was such a man in need of learning to yield to God in order to walk in the Spirit, as we look at him through a three-fold lens.

- I. The man Philip.
- II. The call of Philip.
- III. The apostle Philip.

#### **I. The man Philip.**

- A. The name **of Philip** appears only fourteen times in the New Testament.
  1. Philip's name appears three times in the synoptic gospels. Matt. 10:3; Mk. 3:18; Lk. 6:14
    - a. The appearance is in the list of the twelve apostles.
    - b. The name of Philip always appears first in the second group of the next four apostles.
    - c. The man Philip is the leader of the second group of four, which was least intimate in their fellowship with Jesus from the first four, Peter, Andrew, James and John.
    - d. The apostle Philip is joined with Nathanael, perhaps an indication of their co-labor, even in going out two by two?
  2. Philip's name Philip, appears ten times in the gospel of John.
    - a. It is in John's gospel we get the greatest and only information about Philip.
    - b. This information is all that God saw fit to provide us, in order to study and learn the distinct and different kind of individual Philip was from the other eleven.
    - c. We must look carefully and long to search out the riches hidden in Philip for our learning.
    - d. The ten times his name appears in John are related to four events.

- 1) Philip's call. Jn. 1:43-48
  - 2) Philip's calculating mind. Jn. 6:5-7
  - 3) Philip's closed heart. Jn. 12:21-22
  - 4) Philip's slow mind. Jn. 14:8-9
    - \* We will look at these in greater depth in our last two points!
3. Philip's name appears once in Acts. Acts 1:13
- a. His name is followed by Bartholomew in the three synoptic gospels in the list of the twelve.
  - b. His name in Acts changes order and Thomas comes second and he third. Acts 1:13
  - c. Whether this indicates a change in order of importance or not is uncertain, though it is interesting he is not found anywhere after Pentecost in the book of Acts.
4. Philip's name Philip "Philippos" is Greek and comprised of two words.
- a. The word "philos" which means a friend.
  - b. The word "hippos", which means horse.
  - c. The two make up his name which means a lover of horses.
  - d. The custom was the bearing of a Greek and a Jewish name, though we do not know the Jewish one, for all the twelve disciples were Jews.
- B.** The name of Philip is not to be confused with the other Philip found in the Scriptures.

1. Philip is one of the twelve apostles of Jesus.
  2. Philip is distinct from Philip the evangelist.
    - a. He began as a deacon in the early church, serving tables. Acts 6:5
    - b. He became known for his gift of evangelism, in fact he is called "Philip the evangelist" Acts 21:8
  3. Philip is distinct from Philip who was tetrarch of Iturea, one of the sons of Herod the Great. Lk. 3.1
  4. Philip is distinct from another son of Herod the Great, who was the first husband of Herodias who was disinherited by his father and lived a private life. Matt. 14:3; Mk. 6:17 Lk. 3:19
- C.** The home of Philip.
1. Philip is from Bethsaida in Galilee. Matt. 10:3 Mk. 3:18
  2. Philip was from the same city that Andrew and Peter were from, and without any doubt he was friends with them. Jn. 1:44
  3. Philip therefore was probably friends with, James and John also because they were partners in business with Peter and Andrew.
  4. Philip could have very well been a fisherman also, though we are not told that, as well as one of John the Baptist's disciples, like Andrew and John.

### Illustration

One day a missionary and his wife were on the same ship that Teddy Roosevelt was returning from one of his African hunting trips and the crowds were cheering to welcome him home. The missionary said to his wife, “It is not fair we have given our lives to the Lord’s work and no one is here to welcome us”. His loving and wise wife responded, “Yes, but we are not home yet.”

### **Application**

1. Some of the most acknowledge people in heaven are going to be those who were never known on earth.
  - a. Even as Paul told the servant of his day to serve their masters not with eye service as men-pleasers but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Eph. 6:6
  - b. Knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. Eph. 6:8
2. The most affective people are those who are themselves, not an imitation of another.
  - a. God will use your own personality.
  - b. God will enhance all that you are with your gifts and anointing. Rom. 12:3
3. The pattern of God touching the lives of a common circle of friends and acquaintances is God’s sovereignty.
  - a. God reached out and used Moses and Aaron, who were brothers. Ex. 4:27
  - b. God chose the family of Aaron for the priesthood. Ex. 28:1

- c. God chose David, some of his relatives and many who knew David to bring about the promises of God. 1Sam. 16:13

***This was the man Philip!***

## **II. The call of Philip.**

- A. Philip was found by Jesus. Jn. 1:43
  1. Jesus had been found by Andrew and John the day before. vs. 43a
  2. Jesus then wanted to go into Galilee. vs. 43a
    - a. Not for mere adventure.
    - b. Not for mere relaxation.
  3. Jesus went into Galilee to find Philip. vs. 43b
    - a. The plan of Jesus in choosing certain men included this man Philip.
      - 1) He is the only one that is said to be found by Jesus.
      - 2) In as much as the Scriptures tell us that “He must needs go through Samaria”, so Jesus had to go find Philip.
    - b. The plan was to use him to preach the gospel to the world.
      - 1) With all his imperfections.
      - 2) With all his limitations.
      - 3) With all his objections.

- c. The plan was to transform him into the image of Christ, His Master.
  - 1) Making him less like what he was at the time he came to Jesus.
  - 2) Making him more like His Master from the time he came to follow His Master.
- 4. Jesus called Philip to follow Him. vs. 43c
  - a. He is the fourth to receive the call of discipleship.
    - 1) John had follow Jesus with Andrew as John the Baptist pointed them to Jesus. Jn. 1:40
    - 2) This is the day after Jesus had called Andrew and Peter. Jn. 1:43
  - b. He follow Jesus when he heard the call.
    - 1) He did not procrastinate by saying he had many things he wanted to do first.
    - 2) He did not hesitate saying that he wasn't sure if it was worth it or right.
    - 3) He was ready for both the call and to follow Jesus, as a life commitment not a mere part time association.
- B. Philip found Nathanael. Jn. 1:45
  - 1. Philip decided to find Nathanael, one of his close friends.
    - a. He is like Andrew, but more selective in who can come to Jesus.

- b. He is calculating and rational, not minding Nathanael to come to Jesus, but not sure about some Greeks.
- c. Nathanael is the same person as Bartholomew.
- 2. Philip declared that they had found Him whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote. vs. 45a-d
  - a. The implication being that Philip was a student of the word of God.
    - 1) He obeyed the commands of Law. Deut. 6:4-9; Josh. 1:8
    - 2) He was being guided by the truth of God's word, not the trends of the day.
  - b. The evidence being that Philip was looking and searching.
    - 1) He was believed the promises of God.
    - 2) He was looking for God to act in his lifetime.
    - 3) He was sure about having found God.
  - c. The fulfillment of John the Baptist's ministry had been fulfilled.
    - 1) The glory of the Lord had been revealed and all flesh saw Him. Is. 40:5
    - 2) The road had been prepared faithfully for the Lamb of God. Mal. 3:1a-c
    - 3) The Messiah had appeared suddenly in His temple in partial fulfillment as He cleansed the temple. Mal. 3:1d-g

3. Philip identified Jesus as the long awaited Messiah. vs. 45e
  - a. Jesus is His human name which means “Yahweh is salvation”, it is the Greek name of the Hebrew, Joshua.
  - b. Jesus was from Nazareth in the Galilee.
  - c. Jesus was the son of Joseph by name, but not by conception for He was conceived by the Holy Spint. Matt. 1:18-20

C. Philip directly is questioned in his assessment of Jesus by Nathanael. Jn. 1:46

1. Nathanael said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” vs. 46a-b
  - a. Nazareth was not the most reputable place.
  - b. Nazareth was not a very cultured region.
2. Philip said, “Come and see”. invited Nathanael to come and see. vs. 46c
  - a. The invitation was as if Jesus was making it, “Come”, being one of the disciples of Jesus, an ambassador.
    - 1) It comes to every person.
    - 2) It must be decided by each person.
    - 3) It will effect each person’s eternity.
  - b. The blessing was to see the Messiah of God.
    - 1) Seeing one’s need of forgiveness.
    - 2) Seeing one’s need of transformation.

### Illustration

A friend of mine was a nightclub musician and got saved all by himself at home, as he was reading the Bible, Jesus found him, like many others!

### Application

1. Philip is a beautiful type of those Jesus sovereignly reveals Himself to apart from another person.
  - a. How many individuals have been saved being alone, while reading the Bible?
  - b. How many have been saved in a prison sell, with no one else around?
  - c. From the human perspective we find Jesus, but from the divine perspective Jesus finds all of us by the simple fact that we are lost not Jesus, He came to seek that which was lost! Matt. 18:11
2. Philip type individuals go and find close friends to share their newly found Messiah and faith in Him.
  - a. They share the person of Jesus, as the Messiah of the Scriptures. Gen. 3:15; Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:21
  - b. They share the person of Jesus to be God Incarnate. Jn. 1:1, 14
  - c. They share Jesus who can forgive them of their sins and change their lives. 2Cor. 5:17
  - d. They share the most basic characteristic of Christianity, if you are not sharing your faith with others, it is a good cause to believe you have not partaken yourself!
    - \* The Kingdom of God ruling in my heart is an enlargement of the Kingdom of God on earth, God adding to the church, such as should be saved!

3. Philip type individuals don't argue or quit when challenged in declaring Jesus is the Messiah, they merely give the gospel for sinners to decide.
- a. We are to provide the invitation to experience Jesus for themselves. Rev. 3:20
  - b. We are to provide an answer for every person, for the reason and hope that lies in us with meekness and fear. 1Pet. 3:15
  - c. We are to be confident that they will see their sinful state and their need of salvation by the revealed conviction of the Holy Spirit. Jn. 16:8
  - d. We are inviting individuals to be disciples, students of Jesus, not by mere intellectual knowledge but also to be transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2Cor. 4:18
  - e. We are inviting people to follow Jesus from a life lived in darkness, to one lived in the light. Col. 1:13

*This was the call of Philip!*

### III. The apostle Philip.

- A. Philip was a pragmatic apostle. Jn. 6:1-7
  1. Jesus has just crossed the Sea of Galilee or Tiberias. vs. 1
  2. Jesus was being followed by a multitude for He had performed signs on those who were sick, healing them. vs. 2

3. Jesus went up to a mountain and sat with His disciples, the multitudes were greater for the Passover was near. vs. 3-4
3. Jesus lifting His eyes and seeing the multitudes coming towards Him asked Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" vs. 5
4. John provides by way of commentary the purpose behind the question to Philip. vs. 6
  - a. Jesus said this to test Philip. vs. 6a
    - 1) Jesus had just done many miracles, healing the sick.
    - 2) Jesus had turned the water into wine, without doubt Philip was there.
    - 3) Jesus wanted to see if Philip was learning to trust Him for the impossible out of His compassion for man.
  - b. Jesus knew what He would do. vs. 6b
    - 1) Jesus knew He was going to multiply the five barely loaves of 12 bread and the 2 fishes that Andrew pointed out. feeding the five thousand. vs. 8-14
    - 2) Jesus also knew the outcome of Philip's test, but for the benefit of the other apostles and us who read, it is written. Rom. 15:4
5. Philip told Jesus, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." vs. 7

- a. Philip has a calculating mind.
  - 1) Philip is a pragmatic individual, who assesses the problem at hand and says, “It just can not be done, we just do not have enough money.
  - 2) Philip was not drawing from what he had seen Jesus do.
- b. Philip did not hear what Jesus asked him.
  - 1) Jesus asked, “Where shall we buy bread”, not how shall we feed them!
  - 2) Jesus knew of the two hundred denarii in the treasury box Judas Iscariot carried.
    - \* A denarii was a days wages!
- c. Philip should of gone right back to Jesus and said, “Lord you tell us”.
  - 1) The physical eye cannot see the things of God.
  - 2) The mind cannot perceive the things of God
  - 3) The Spirit of God is the One that must direct and reveal the things of God.
    - \* The natural man does not perceive the things of God, they are foolishness but the believer received the things of God by His Spirit. 1Cor. 2:9-16

**B. Philip was a prejudice apostle. Jn. 12:20-22**

- 1. Certain Greek came up to worship at the feast. vs. 20
  - a. They were proselytes.

- b. They were waiting for the Messiah.
  - 2. They came to Philip and said, “We wish to see Jesus”. vs. 21
    - a. Philip perhaps was thought by the Greeks as approachable, having a Greek name?
    - b. Philip being the leader of the second group of four was singled out.
  - 3. Philip went to Andrew and they both went to Jesus. vs. 22
    - a. Philip was unsure of the answer since they were Greeks revealing his prejudice heart.
    - b. Philip forgot how quickly he had offered that invitation to Nathanael, but had to check with Andrew first.
    - c. Philip, though being the leader of the second group of four recognized his lower place before Andrew, the forth most intimate with the Lord Jesus.
    - d. Philip has been credited by many as the first to introduce Gentiles into the church by these Greeks prior to Cornelius by Peter.
- C. Philip was a perceptively slow apostle. In. 14:1-11**
- 1. Jesus has just told the apostles He is going to the Father and encourages them not to be afraid, but to believe in Him as they had in God. vs. 1

2. Jesus in fact tells them He was going to prepare a place for them in the Father's house. vs. 2
3. Jesus promised He would come back to receive them to Himself, so they can be with Him also. vs. 3
4. Jesus reminded them they knew the way, to which Thomas declared, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" vs. 4-5
5. Jesus responded with one of the most valuable truth that refutes any other possible way to heaven, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me." vs. 6
6. Jesus immediately said, "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." vs. 7
  - \* In other words, Jesus had revealed the very nature of the Father, redemptive love.
7. Philip declared to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." vs. 8
  - a. Three years Philip has been with Jesus and he still failed the test place before him.
  - b. The pragmatic mind of Philip refused to have eyes of faith, "show us the Father and it is sufficient for us", he says.

- c. Philip failed to grasp that the presence of God was before Him in human form, nevertheless completely divine.
8. Jesus rebukes Philip strongly. vs. 9
  - \* Jesus rebukes Philip for being a slow learner to understand spiritual things, making it very personal, "Have I been with you so long, yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father.'" vs. 9
9. Jesus reasoned with Philip reminding him that He is in the Father and the Father in Him, the authority was the Father's who dwelt in Him as well as doing the works and asked him to believe this or else for the sake of the very works themselves. vs. 10-11
  - a. As if to say, If you can't see forward Philip, at least look back to what I have done!
  - b. At times that is exactly what gives us the faith to go forwards, the fact that God has worked in the past faithfully
  - c. Philip was martyred in Phrygia at Heirapolis for his faith.

### **Illustration**

On Sundays the Greenville North Carolina newspaper "The Daily Reflector", carries a column on items found by Ripley's Believe It or Not. In one particular column, it pictured a plain bar of iron worth \$5. The

same bar of iron made into horseshoes would be worth \$50. If made into needles, it would be worth \$5,000, and if made into balance springs for fine Swiss watches, it would be worth \$500,000. In God's Kingdom Paul reminds us each person has a place and a ministry within the church, all for the purpose of "building up the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith." (Sept.99. Eph. 4:12-16)

### Application

1. Philip type individuals are necessary in the body and part of the body, but they are detail men, leaning more to the logical and rational, than the miraculous.
  - a. Such as the amount of money to do what God is leading, when it appears not to be there.
  - b. Like the purchasing of this building with only 300 people.
  - c. Like the building of the gym in 1991.
  - d. Like the outreaches, radio, etc.
    - 1)) "But **without faith** *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Heb 11:6
    - 2)) Faith is believing and trusting God for what He reveals, directs or declares what He wants to do, then time will reveal if it was God!
2. Philip type individuals have an Achilles heel, they like to keep the fellowship to those familiar, the house of Israel.

- a. They need to be reminded of the grace over their own lives.
- b. They need to be encouraged to be open.
  - \* "Freely you have received, freely give." Matt. 10:8e-f
3. Philip type individuals are slow to grasp spiritual things with apprehension in view of the years they have walked with God.
  - a. They are still feeding on milk, instead of meat. Heb. 5:12-14
  - b. They are students of the Scriptures, but the word is not mixed with faith. Heb. 4:2
    - \* Leaning to their own understanding, not acknowledging the Lord, being unable to be led by the Lord. Prov. 3.5-6
  - c. They are sincere and honest, but dull of hearing yet if they can yield to the Lord in faith, their practical and inquiry minds for details become incredible instruments of God, even as Philip became in obedience to the Great Commission. Matt. 28:18-20

*This was the apostle Philip!*

### Conclusion

Philip was in need of learning to yield to God to apprehend spiritual truth and apply it, these three points have revealed this.

- I. The man Philip!
- II. The call of Philip!
- III. The apostle Philip!

