

Series: Life to the Full; Sermon: **You Will See Heaven Opened**

Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **September 17, 2017**

Bible text explored: John 1:43–51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”
⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” [ESV]

Review and application:

1. How had Jesus earlier interacted (*John 1:33-35*) with two—Andrew and, presumably, John—who had been baptized by John the Baptist?
How had Jesus responded (*John 1:42*) when Andrew brought his brother?
How would Jesus follow through (*Matt. 4:18-20*), when both he and Peter and Andrew had returned to Galilee?
2. Jesus encountered Philip, also from Peter and Andrew’s hometown. How (*vv. 43-44*) did he recruit him?
How did Jesus’ invitations differ from the way rabbi’s expected to acquire adherents?
3. How does deciding to personally follow Jesus’ call to your heart differ radically from aligning with a religion?
4. Philip’s excited description of Jesus to his friend Nathaniel (*v. 45*) was basically on target. But why could not knowing the human birthplace of “Jesus of Nazareth” have raised a legitimate question for any honest inquirer? (See *Micah 5:2*.)
Why was describing Jesus as “the son of Joseph,” while legally correct, inadequate for conveying the fatherhood of the Incarnation?
5. Why was Philip’s response to Nathaniel (*v. 46*) a wise one for dealing with skeptics?
How could we, like Pastor Moody, examine Scriptures with “Doubters Anonymous”?
6. Why (*v. 47*) would Jesus’ word-play on the contrast of Nathaniel’s character with that of Jacob (before he was renamed) capture his attention?
How did Jesus’ knowledge of Nathaniel’s previous actions (*vv. 48-49*) induce his worship?
7. What (*vv. 50-51*) astonishing promise did Jesus make to Nathaniel?
To what familiar dream of Jacob’s did Jesus attach his promise? (See *Gen. 28:12-17*.)
Who is the “Son of Man” beside the staircase on which the angels of God are ascending to, and descending from, heaven? (See *Dan. 7:13-14*.)
8. As Jesus followers, how may we see heaven opened by . . .
 - . . . responding to the Bible as God sovereignly speaking?
 - . . . setting aside pride and fear of people?
 - . . . believing that your prayers are heard in heaven?
 - . . . believing that the angels of God will minister to you?
 - . . . rejoicing in life eternal?