

Weekly Theme Blog September, 2025

# 9.7.25

### **A Friend Shared Jesus**

In April our HUMAN of the Bible Reflection was Philip, A Disciple of Jesus. We learned at that time about his friend - Nathanael. When Jesus found Philip and became one of

His disciples - the first thing he did was go to his friend. Nathanael learned about Jesus from his friend, Philip. Not only did his friend, Philip, share Jesus with him - but he took him to meet Jesus face to face.

### John 1:43-51 NIV

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

**44** Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

What a wonderful testimony for our HUMAN of the Bible. Philip, his friend, cared enough for Nathanael to run straight to him after meeting Jesus himself. When Philip saw Nathanael - he immediately shared the exciting, good news of Jesus with his friend!

This is what HUMAN Living Ministry is all about - this is what I am about sharing Jesus with you, my friend!

### <u>John 3:16</u> KJV

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Dear Reader, Jesus loves you so much. He wants to be your Savior and Lord - your very best friend. I want to share Him with you here. The following Scriptures provide you with reference to what He did to show you His love for you:

The Story of Jesus
Luke 1:26-35- Mary
Matthew 1:18-25- Joseph
Luke 2:8-14 - Shepherds
Matthew 2:7-12 - Wise Men
John 1:1, 14 - The Word
Hebrews 4:15 - Jesus as God and human
Luke 2:52 - Jesus grew
Luke 3:23 - Jesus began His early ministry
Matthew 27:1-28:20 - Jesus's Death & Resurrection
John 3:16 - For God so loved
Ephesians 3:19 - Know His love

Should you want prayer to repent and receive Jesus as your personal Savior – I am glad to pray with you. Please visit my Prayer Request page and submit a completed prayer request form for salvation or any other reason. I will pray with you.

I can be reached for question or comments at thumanburgin@gmail.com, as well. The most important page is my Invitation and Prayer page if you want to know more about receiving Jesus as your personal Savior. I invite you to stop by.

My prayer is that HUMAN Living Ministry and I are viewed as a friend sharing Jesus and the Good News of His life and love to a lost and dying world. This is the greatest moment of your life. Will you choose to pray and with a repentant heartask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior – surrendering everything about you and your world to Him?

If you already have, will you make a commitment to Him for a deeper understanding and stronger relationship with Him? Oh, my friend – my prayer is that you make this choice with our amazing God. He is here waiting for your invitation. I assure you, He will make all things new and you will never be the same.

# **II Corinthians 5:17 KJV**

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become.

A friend shared Jesus ... I pray this is the description of you and me, dear Reader. May we be known for sharing the Good News of Jesus with all we encounter. Dear Reader, be confident of this – I am here at HUMAN Living Ministry praying for you every day. Stop by anytime. I am so glad you do.

Remember ...Jesus loves you so!

#### 9.14.25

# **Nothing Good Can Come From There**

#### <u>John 1:43-46</u> NIV

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

As we read today's Scripture reference, we see our HUMAN of the Bible Reflection has been told about Jesus. Philip, another disciple of Jesus, and a friend of Nathanael's, shares Jesus with him and all he knew up to this point.

Nathanael had an unexpected response to his friend, Philip, regarding where Jesus was from- "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" He had a presupposition of Nazareth. Jews during this time had a low opinion of this area.

Matthew 2:23 states, "He went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene." In my research, I learned that some scholars believe Matthew's recordings summarize the words of some prophets.

Additionally, "Nazarene" would have a connection to the word Hebrew word nester or "Branch". Hebrew words have consonants only. The Hebrew of Branch is NZR which would have also been the Hebrew spelling of netser or Nazarene. "Branch is Messiah as referenced in Isaiah 11:1. 1

With this established we understand that Jesus came from Nazareth.

Additionally, many looked down on Nazareth as well as those who came from Nazareth.

"Can anything good come from there?" Isn't this a common sentiment even today? Have you or yours been looked down upon for something such as your zip code?

If you are in these circumstances of being looked down upon for a particular aspect of your life – I am here to encourage you to keep your eyes on JESUS, friend. Jesus proved something good can – something did – come from Nazareth!

Do not be discouraged. Do not be defeated. Do not be disappointed. Do not be defined by this moment. Let God arise in you and I assure you, your enemies will be scattered. God will make a way for you as you seek Him, trust Him, and give Him all the glory. He will handle your enemies – they will watch as He raises you up by His hand and you have a testimony to share.

If you want prayer for a matter such as this or to repent and receive Jesus as your personal Savior – I am glad to pray with you. Please visit my <u>Prayer Request page</u> and submit a completed prayer request form for salvation or any other reason. I will pray with you.

You can also reach me at <a href="mailto:thumanburgin@gmail.com">thumanburgin@gmail.com</a> with questions or comments.

The most important page is my <u>Invitation and Prayer page</u> if you want to know more about receiving Jesus as your personal Savior. I invite you to stop by.

Friend, may I ask – has it been you who was living with a superior attitude toward someone else for your perspective of their world? I encourage you not to continue in this way. Jesus loves you and wants to use you more than you can imagine.

Humbling yourself before Him, repenting and even apologizing as needed is where you can begin. God will make a way for you to take you higher than living from a fleshly viewpoint.

Oh, how Jesus longs to unite and use each one of us for His Kingdom's sake. I pray we allow Him to do so. Again, I am glad to pray with you for peace, salvation, or encouragement. Wherever you find yourself on your journey, Jesus wants to meet you if you will welcome Him. My prayer is that you do, dear Reader.

Watch and see ...something good can come from there!

I offer you this assurance today – Jesus loves you so!

#### 9.21.25

#### **No Deceit**

It was a moment that surprised even our HUMAN of the Bible Reflection for September.

As Philip returned to Jesus after telling his friend, Nathanael, about Him - he brought the newly apprised man to the Lord. Jesus's words upon seeing Nathanael were, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

### <u>John 1:43-47</u> NIV

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

Jesus saw Nathanael. He saw the heart of a human He was about to call one of His disciples. Jesus saw "a true Israelite in whom there is no deceit" in Nathanael. What an astounding statement! It is so clear that Jesus knew Nathanael. He recognized that Nathanael was a true Israelite- a descendent of Jacob. He stated Nathanael had no deceit in him- Jesus saw him as honest, trustworthy, sincere.

This is the divine in the Lord "seeing" the human He created. How the Lord knows each of us personally is deeply realized right here with Nathanael. The fact that He found no deceit in him is a testament of who our HUMAN of the Bible Reflection is and what we can learn from him.

In addition, it gives us pause- what does Jesus see when He looks at us, dear Reader? This is a great challenge to each of us. May we seek the Lord as in <a href="Psalm 139:23-24">Psalm 139:23-24</a> KJV -

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Let it be that when Jesus sees us, He is able to say, "no deceit!"

If you want prayer for what Jesus sees when He looks at you, dear friend, I am glad to pray with you. Please visit my <u>Prayer Request page</u> and submit a completed prayer request form for salvation or any other reason.

You also contact me at <a href="mailto:thumanburgin@gmail.com">thumanburgin@gmail.com</a> with other questions or comments.

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Friend, Jesus formed our innermost being.

# <u>Psalm 139:13-14</u> NIV

13 For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful,

I know that full well.

He knows you. He sees you. My prayer is that you seek Him if you don't know Him as your Savior. When you allow Him to, He will come into your life with your invitation and repentance. You will never be the same again.

Just as *no deceit* was Jesus's declaration of what He saw in Nathanael, our HUMAN of the Bible Reflection for September– Jesus sees you. My prayer is that He finds your heart in a similar beautiful way, friend. He knows you and He is waiting to know you more. Jesus calls you by name and even wants to call you– disciple– as He did, Nathanael.

How wonderful to be seen, known, and loved by Almighty God. It is your decision to receive Jesus as your Savior. If you already have- it is your choice to daily pray and seek Him to know Him more. He will meet you where you are, friend. You will know who you are because of Jesus in your life! What a wonderful blessing.

My prayer is that you know Jesus. I pray you enjoy a friendship with Him. I pray for you to be confident that He sees you. Above all, my prayer is that you know how much Jesus loves you so!

# **A Life-Changing Encounter**

We are all human. We all have a story. I don't know your story and you don't know mine. Many think they know our stories, friend, but they do not. Only our amazing God and closest, intimate relationships know our stories.

Our HUMAN of the Bible Reflection for September, Nathanael, had a story, too. Jesus knew it.

### <u>John 1:47-49</u> NIV

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

48 "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

In the scriptures above we see that Nathanael and Philip approached Jesus. As they did, Jesus stated who Nathanael was and what He saw. In verse 48 Nathanael asked Jesus how He knew Him. The Lord answered that He saw Nathanael sitting under a fig tree before his friend, Philip arrived. With this revelation, Nathanael acknowledged Jesus as, "The Son of God!"

What is the significance of Jesus telling Nathanael that He saw him sitting under a fig tree? In my research I found two discoveries. The first being that sitting under a fig tree was a custom for the Jews to study things such as the Torah. Second, it was very probable that this highlighted a private occurrence that only Nathanael would know.

Such a moment as this would be defined as "an encounter" with Jesus.

Can you say, friend, that you have had such an experience with the Lord? What a life-changing occasion it is to know the Lord in this way. I encourage you- we do not seek these things, we only seek God as in Matthew 6:33. From our prayer time with the Lord, He will meet us and choose times to reveal Himself in ways that only you will understand. Just as our HUMAN of the Bible Reflection, Nathanael, recognized the truth of Jesus when He spoke that personal word to him- we can have our own appointments with our amazing God.

If you want prayer to know Jesus more, dear friend, I am glad to pray with you. Please visit my <u>Prayer Request page</u> and submit a completed prayer request form for salvation or any other reason.

You can contact me at <u>thumanburgin@gmail.com</u> with additional questions or comments.

The most important page is my <u>Invitation and Prayer page</u> if you want to know more about receiving Jesus as your personal Savior. I invite you to stop by.

My personal relationship with Jesus has allowed me to know those precious times with the Lord. Each one is beautiful. The most shared is the story of our first baby. Sadly,

we experienced a miscarriage

April 17, 1993. During the time of my recovery, I cried out to the Lord. I sought Him in prayer. I was honest about my disappointment and pain. In those days of reaching out to my God, He met me. I heard Jesus speak to my heart and tell me- "If you won't be sad or depressed and trust Me, you will know by July that you are expecting again!" I knew what I heard and I knew this promise from my promise-keeping God.

Friend, our testimony is that on

June 29, 1993, my wonderful husband and I saw the fulfillment of God's promise- we were expecting again!

In February, 1994, our amazing son was born. God was and is faithful. He blessed us again nearly three years later with another amazing little man. I have had and continue to enjoy the time of my life being a Mom of Boys- now a Mom of Men. This encounter with Jesus in my life was absolutely life-changing!

After 31 years, I still shout my praise to Him and give my amazing God all glory.

I pray you are blessed in your daily walk and talk with Jesus, dear Reader. I pray you enjoy a life-changing encounter with our precious Lord. I pray you know Jesus in ways you never imagined because you seek Him and keep your eyes on Him in every way.

Always walk with the assurance that Jesus loves you so!