



THE FIRST FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

John 1:1:6-51

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Much is said about John the Baptist. In fact, Jesus, Himself, said that there was no greater prophet than John the Baptist. Though others tried to, John did not search for any sense of identity; he was content to be a voice for the Lord, preparing the way for Jesus Christ.

Key Doctrine: THE ETERNAL EXISTENCE OF CHRIST: Jesus, though born of a virgin in Bethlehem, did not come into existence in Bethlehem. Christ, just like God the Father is eternally existent. The birth of Jesus was simply God taking on flesh (See John 1:15, 30).

Key Application: Like John, our lives should always serve to draw all attention to Jesus, not ourselves.

John's Baptism

Up until this point, baptism was a common thing, but only for Gentiles who desired to follow Jehovah. John's baptism was different because He did not baptize into a religion, He baptized into the person of Jesus Christ. Therefore, John's baptism was for Gentile *and Jew*.

ANDREW AND SIMON PETER

Upon his introduction to Jesus Christ, Andrew saw no more important task than to bring His brother to Jesus.

"He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah..." John 1:21

PHILIP AND NATHANIEL

After His encounter with Andrew and Peter, Jesus found Philip, and even before we read of Philip following Christ, we read of him, finding Nathaniel. As Philip and Nathaniel make their way to Jesus, they are met with His presence along their way, and He assures Philip that before Philip found Nathaniel, Jesus saw him.

Key Doctrine: GOD IS THE INITIATOR OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIMSELF: Just as God assured Nathaniel that before Philip called him, He saw him, we should understand that regardless of human influence, God sees us, before we know Him, or are brought to Him (See John 1:48, Romans 5:8).

Key Application: We should use the relationships that God has given us to bring people to Jesus Christ.