

## Summary of the sermon – January 19th, 2014, 9h30

**Reading of the Holy Scriptures: John 1,19-42**

**The subject of the sermon is: John 1,43-51**

Theme of the sermon:

**Finding and following. Or: Jesus saw you sitting. So you do Jesus?**

### 1. Links

How did you come to Jesus? How did He come to you?

Mostly by our parents. That fits to Gods covenant and the holy baptism. See Marc 10,13-16.

Jesus says: Bring your children to me.

Other Christians are brought to Jesus by a friend, a brother or sister, a colleague. Perhaps by a pastor of the church.

There is a chain of links: people find each other and bring them to Jesus. Such a chain we find in John chapter 1. It's the first week of Jesus' work in Israel.

Chain: John the Baptist → Andrew → Simon Peter → Philip → Nathanael.

### 2. Seen

Jesus says to Nathanael: "I saw you under the fig-tree before Philip spoke to you."

That's not a form of telepathy or something like that. It's Jesus' omniscience as the Son of God. With one look Jesus sees through who Nathanael is: really an Israelite; there is nothing false in him.

### 3. Son of Talmai

Who is this Nathanael? Most likely it is the apostle Bartholomew. That name means: Son of Talmai / Son of Tholomew. So that is Nathanael's last name. John knew his maiden name. His is the sixth disciple.

Jesus knows him as a honest man. On the background sounds the story of Jacob. He was a false one, but became a new name and identity: Israel. Of that Israel Nathanael is a real son.

### 4. Who is Jesus?

Jesus saw Nathanael under the fig-tree. Nathanael sceptically reacts on the words of Philip: 'We found the Messiah, Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.'

'Can anything goods come from Nazareth?' he asks. That's a very small and unimportant village in the North of the country. In the Bible there is no link between the Messiah and Nazareth. For sure Bethlehem, Micah 5:1.

Nevertheless Nathanael goes to Jesus. Jesus found him. And Nathanael turns as a leaf of the fig-tree. He confesses: '*Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.*'

What do you answer on the question: 'Who is Jesus for you?' See John 20,31.

### 5. Greater things

Nathanael saw Jesus and he believes. Jesus enjoys that. For there are already 6 disciples in one week. Jesus promises Nathanael that he shall see greater things. The first thing 2 days

later at the wedding in Cana-in-Galilee. Jesus saves the feast. He changes water into wine. (John 12,1-11) The first great wonder. There will follow much more. See John 20,25.

#### 6. Jacob's ladder

Jesus closes his talk with Nathanael by a strong prophetic word. Verse 51. *"... you shall see heaven wide open, and God's angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."*

That remembers of the dream of Jacob in Bethel, seeing a ladder from earth to heaven, Genesis 28, 10-22.

The disciples shall see that Jesus is the true Jacob's ladder. He is the connection between heaven and earth. Jesus is the stairway to God. Jesus says: *"I am the way; I am the truth and I am life; no one comes to the Father except by me."* (John 14,6)

I repeat the question from the beginning of the sermon: How did you come to Jesus? How did He come to you?

The pattern of links from disciple to disciple stays recognizable.

Thus: Finding and following.

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