

Dr. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

John 1:43-51 | Who Found Whom?

Sunday October 4, 2026

KEYPOINT 1:

Evangelism is simply an _____.

KEYPOINT 2:

Jacob was renamed _____.

SERMON NOTES:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

POP QUIZ

1. What does Jesus finding Philip demonstrate about becoming His disciple?

- A. People must prove their worth before Jesus calls them.
- B. Jesus takes the initiative in calling people to Himself.
- C. Only trained religious leaders can follow Jesus.
- D. Following Jesus begins with knowing every answer.

2. Philip was from Bethsaida, which was also the hometown of whom?

- A. Andrew and Peter
- B. Moses and Aaron
- C. Mary and Martha
- D. James and Judas

3. How did Philip describe Jesus when he told Nathanael about Him?

- A. A ruler appointed by Rome
- B. A priest serving in Jerusalem
- C. The One Moses and the prophets wrote about
- D. A prophet who preached the Old Testament

4. What was Nathanael's initial response to hearing that Jesus was from Nazareth?

- A. "Good things come from Nazareth!"
- B. "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
- C. "Why hasn't He come from Jerusalem?"
- D. "Out of Nazareth, good things come."

5. Philip's response, "Come and see," illustrates which key point from the sermon?

- A. Evangelism requires answering every objection first.
- B. Evangelism is reserved for pastors.
- C. Evangelism means avoiding difficult conversations.
- D. Evangelism is simply an invitation.

6. What did Jesus' description of Nathanael as an Israelite "in whom there is no deceit" emphasize?

- A. Nathanael was honest and sincere, though not sinless.
- B. Nathanael had never committed a sin.
- C. Nathanael was more educated than Philip.
- D. Nathanael could earn salvation through good character.

7. What new name did God give Jacob?

- A. Ismael
- B. Isaiah
- C. Israel
- D. Isaac

8. Jesus knew Nathanael before Philip called him and saw him under the fig tree. Which divine attribute does this reveal?

- A. Omnipotence—God's unlimited power
- B. Omniscience—God's complete knowledge
- C. Immutability—God's unchanging nature
- D. Eternality—God's existence without beginning or end

9. What did Nathanael confess after Jesus revealed His knowledge of him?

- A. "You are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel!"
- B. "You are another prophet like Jonah!"
- C. "You are the high priest of Jerusalem!"
- D. "You are the Messiah!"

10. After promising Nathanael that he would see greater things, Jesus spoke of angels ascending and descending. Which Old Testament event does this imagery recall?

- A. Moses crossing the Red Sea
- B. Elijah confronting the prophets of Baal
- C. Daniel entering the lions' den
- D. Jacob dreaming of a stairway reaching heaven

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Monday — The Lord Takes the Initiative | John 1:43

1. How does knowing that the Lord takes the initiative in calling people to Himself shape your understanding of His grace?
2. Looking back, how did the Lord use people or circumstances to draw you toward Himself?
3. What area of your life needs to change as you respond to the Lord's command, "Follow me"?

Tuesday — Sharing the Good News | John 1:44–45

1. Philip quickly told Nathanael about the Lord. What makes you eager—or hesitant—to share your faith?
2. Who could you speak with this week about the Lord, and how might you begin that conversation?

Wednesday — "Come and See" | John 1:46

1. How can Philip's response help you engage graciously with someone who raises objections to your faith?
2. What does your invitation to "Come and see" sound like?

Thursday — An Honest Heart | John 1:47

1. The Lord commended Nathanael's sincerity. Where is there a gap between your public appearance and your private life?
2. How does God's patience in Jacob's life encourage you to surrender habits of deception before the Lord dislocates your hip?

Friday — Fully Known by the Lord | John 1:48–49

1. How does the Lord's complete knowledge of your thoughts and motives both challenge and comfort you?
2. What hidden struggle or burden do you need to bring openly before the Lord in prayer?

Saturday — Our Access to God | John 1:50–51

1. How does the image of the Lord as the stairway between heaven and earth deepen your understanding of His role as mediator?
2. Where are you tempted to rely on your goodness, religious activity, or effort to gain God's acceptance?