

Refrigerator Notes 14 January 2018
Simple, Yet Profound: The Call
John 1:43-51

1. Second Sunday of Epiphany, Eerdmans Bible Dictionary defines Epiphany as a moment of sudden revelation or insight.
2. We get a hint of the glory of Jesus, when he calls Philip and Nathanael with no warning.
3. The text would have you wonder what kind of man is this Jesus, who calls others and they not only follow Him but believe in Him without questioning His motives.
4. We get a hint of this insight when Jesus addresses Nathaniel, in verse 50 and 51 "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Very truly I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."
5. One would want to ask probably, what type of "Call" did Philip and Nathaniel receive?
6. To my first point is the revelation of Jesus to Israel, as well as to us, is somewhat mystifying – Jesus just calls and they follow; much like many of us received the call.
7. The ultimate outcome of the calling of the various disciples is that they will see Jesus' glory, above all - the glory of His resurrection.
8. Us modern day Christians too receive a call that is manifested the Holy Spirit, because without the spirit of God there can be no calling.
9. The "Call" to us is like Jesus' words to Nathaniel, which provides the fuel for a deeper faith and understanding of whom Jesus is and our relationship in Him and the triune God.
10. Too the second point, is the question that suggest why any of us Christians should believe.
11. Do we believe because of hearing the word first or was it the introduction of the word or the person of Jesus by another disciple or teacher or vocational minister?
12. Nathaniel accepts the invitation of Jesus after witnessing Jesus' powers of perception, Nathanael believes that Jesus is the "Son of God" and the King of Israel. At what point in your life where you afflicted by the Holy Spirit that caused you to recognize the Son of God?
13. A sermon on this scripture might reflect upon why we believe as Christians, but deeper than our belief is our faith which has been made know by the Holy Spirit.
14. To the third point, what is the call that Philip and Nathaniel may have received relative to the call we perceive to have heard?
15. There are some of us who are Philips and others who are Nathaniel(s).
16. Philip reacted very boldly to his call, while Nathaniel was somewhat of a skeptic.
17. Philip was an enthusiast who did not question his call. John declares that Philip responded to his call in faith and in turn went and found someone else to tell about the divine-one who came from a most unlikely place and village.
18. Philip who found Nathaniel, who is called Bartholomew, in some gospel and told him, "We have found the one Mosses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote Jesus of Nazareth."
19. Who do you know that needs to hear about Jesus and what He has done for you? The call is one that can be simple and requires us to go and tell others or if you will, to call others as well.
20. Don't be a skeptic or cynic about your call but receive it and run with it! Proclaim your call and profess our Lord Jesus Christ and call someone else to "come and see!" That is how your call becomes profound call!