

PHILIP

THE PRAGMATIST

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Jesus, after a night of prayer, chose 12 who were His main focus to be His witnesses (John 20:21-23; Matt. 28:18-20).**

(John 17:23) I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in One; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me.

INTRODUCTION

2. Jesus knew their personalities, both strengths and weaknesses.

(1 Cor. 1:27-29) But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in His presence.

INTRODUCTION

3. Through the Holy Spirit, they were transformed and empowered.

(Eph. 3:16) That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man.

(Acts 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

THE MAN

1. Born in Bethsaida (John 1:44)

2. Well versed in Scriptures

(John 1:45) Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

(John 1:46) And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

THE MAN

3. One of the twelve (Matt. 10:2-4)

4. Name from Greek “he who loves horses”, spoke Greek.

(John 12:20) And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

(John 12:21) The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

CHARACTER

1. Practical

(John 6:7) *Philip answered Him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.*

2. Helpful

(John 12:20) *And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:*

(John 12:21) *The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.*

CHARACTER

3. Literal and confused.

(John 14:7-9) If ye had known Me, ye should have known My Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him.

Philip saith unto Him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

Jesus saith unto Him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

FIRST REACTION

Question:

When you first heard of Jesus, how did you respond intellectually and volitionally?

- 1. Third disciple Jesus called (John 1:43).**
- 2. Brought Nathaniel to Jesus (John 1:45,46).**

(John 1:45,46) Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

FIRST REACTION

3. Called Jesus as son of Joseph not as the Messiah as understood by Andrew.

More on human aspect – son of Joseph

(John 1:41) He (Andrew) first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

REFLECTION

Question:

How much time passed by before you took Jesus' claim seriously?

1. Jesus travelled to Galilee after John the Baptist was in prison (Mark 1:14).
2. If Jesus was the true Messiah, who then was John (John 1:19-28)?
3. It was in Bethsaida, his home town that he was called with the other four.

TEST

Question:

When was the last time Jesus provided you with a unique opportunity to grow your faith?

Jesus knew his intellectual questions and emotional struggles regarding who He really is.

Many miracles before that: water into wine (John 2:1-11)), healing of young boy (John 4:43-54), healing of a man with 38 years of paralysis (John 5), with His claim that He is God (John 5:16-18).

TEST

(John 5:16-18) And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath day.

But Jesus answered them, My Father works hitherto, and I work.

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill Him, because He not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

TEST

(John 6:5) *When Jesus then lifted up His eyes, and saw a great company come unto Him, He saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?*

(John 6:6) *And this He said to prove him: for He Himself knew what He would do.*

(John 6:7) *Philip answered Him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.*

TEST

Question:

When was the last time Jesus provided you with a unique opportunity to grow your faith?

1. Philip's pragmatic answer.
2. Eight months' wages not enough – irrational question.
3. They did not have even that.
4. Philip failed with a purely rational and logical point of view.

CONFUSED

Question:

When did you actually believe that Jesus is God?

1. After three and half years, Jesus announced that He was going away.

(John 14:1-4) Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

CONFUSED

2. Jesus responded to Philip that He is both God and man.

(John 14:8) Philip saith unto Him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

(John 14:9) Jesus saith unto Him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

(John 14:10) Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works.

(John 14:11) Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

CONFUSED

3. Revelation and empowerment through the Holy Spirit.

(John 20:21; 22) *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:*

(John 16:14) *He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

(Acts 1:8) *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

REFLECTIONS

1. In view of Jesus' claims, Jesus is more than a moral teacher.

(1 John 4:1-3) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

And every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

REFLECTIONS

1. In view of Jesus' claims, Jesus is more than a moral teacher. *(continued)*

(John 3:18) He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the Only Begotten Son of God.

(John 9:35) Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

REFLECTIONS

2. Every person who sincerely seeks Jesus, will find Him.

(Deut. 4:29) But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find Him, if thou seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

(Isa. 55:6) Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near:

REFLECTIONS

3. Doubts are normal at certain points of our life.

(Luke 7:20-22) When the men were come unto Him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto Thee, saying, Art Thou He that should come? or look we for another?

And in that same hour He cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind He gave sight.

Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

REFLECTIONS

3. Doubts are normal at certain points of our life. *(continued)*

(John 20:30) And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

(John 20:31) But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His Name.

DOUBTING THOMAS

John 20:19-29

(John 20:19) *Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*

(John 20:20) *And when He had so said, He showed unto them His hands and His side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.*

(John 20:21) *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you.*

(John 20:22) *And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:*

(John 20:23) *Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.*

(John 20:24) But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

(John 20:25) *The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe.*

(John 20:26) *And after eight days again His disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.*

(John 20:27) *Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing.*

(John 20:28) *And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God.*

(John 20:29) *Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

CHARACTER

1. Passive Resignation

A. First occasion:

(John 11:16) Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto His fellow-disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with Him.

B. Second:

(John 14:5) Thomas saith unto Him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Good things always seem too good to be true; bad things seem to happen all too easily!

CHARACTER

2. Doubtful – needed tangible proof

(John 20:24,25) But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe.

CHARACTER

3. Faithful

(John 20:28) *And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God.*

(John 20:29) *Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

Introduction:

Two Character Labels:

1. A Pessimist attaches worst possible scenario to events.
2. A Skeptic refuses to believe without visible, tangible proof.

Introduction:

1. He indulged in Solitude.

- A. He nursed his sorrow and brooded over his fear.
- B. He did not hear “Peace be unto you.” – sure foundation
- C. He did not recognize the importance of fellowship.

(Matt. 18:20) *For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them.*

(Heb. 10:25) *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

CRISIS OF FAITH

2. He intensified his Skepticism.

- A. Speech gives staying power to attitudes. Death and life are in the power of the tongue.
- B. The turning over of mind – self-talk Automatic, re-runs, 1,300 words/min
- C. Principle of replacement – the more we think of something, the stronger it takes hold, and the more it expands.

CRISIS OF FAITH

1. He insisted on signs.

A. He demanded it but did not really expect to see it.

B. He laid down conditions.

C. Skepticism was attention-catching.

1). Gave an amount of sympathy?

2). Allowed to escape responsibility?

3). Provided form of excitement?

4). Re-arranged to rationalize

CRISIS OF FAITH

1. He insisted on signs. *(continued)*

- D. Miracles almost always created distance rather than intimacy. Jesus' example: (John 6:66) From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him.
- E. Doubts really cannot be satisfied. No evidence is ever fully, finally enough!
- F. The Written and Living Word have spoken!
 - 1). OT prophecies: Ps. 16:11; 71:20
(Psalms 49:15) *But God will redeem My Soul from the power of the grave: for He shall receive Me. Selah.*

CRISIS OF FAITH

F. The Written and Living Word have spoken! (continued)

2). Jesus' prophecies – at least 6 times:

(Matt. 16:21) From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto His disciples, how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

God says what He means.

And He means what He says!

CRISIS OF FAITH

1. Jesus met him at the point of need.

A. Thomas was told to stop doubting and start believing: “... be not faithless, but believing.”

B. Seeing does not remove the necessity of believing.
(Rom 14:23) ...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

C. Jesus demonstrates His victory through His nail-pierced Hands.

(Col. 2:13-15) ...having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

CRISIS OF FAITH

2. Thomas passed the test. “My Lord and my God”

A. He who was dead is now alive! Lord!

B. He is God over death and hell.

(Rev. 1:18) *I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

C. Personal faith – “my”

(1 John 4:15) *Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him, and he in God.*

FAITH AND SIGHT

2. Thomas passed the test. “My Lord and my God” *(continued)*

D. Blessings of the Resurrection:

1). Proof of His Deity:

(Rom 1:4) And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the Resurrection from the dead:

2). Sure foundation of faith:

(1 Co 15:17) And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

PRINCIPLES

D. Blessings of the Resurrection: *(continued)*

3). Abiding security:

(Heb. 7:25) Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.

4). Pre-requisite to fruitful life:

(John 14:19) ... because I live, ye shall live also.

5). Pledge of own resurrection:

(1 Th. 4:14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.

PRINCIPLES

1. Honest doubt should lead to earnest desire for truth.

(Isaiah 55:6) Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near:

(Isaiah 65:24) And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

2. We can be influenced by our temperament, but we do not have to be controlled by it.

(2 Cor. 5:17) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

PRINCIPLES

3. God allows our crisis of faith and uses it to help us focus on Him.

(2 Cor. 1:8,9) For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us ... But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

4. Jesus' excellent way:

(John 20:29) Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

PRINCIPLES

5. Faith is possible without physical sight.

A. The Word of God creates faith.

(John 20:31) *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His Name.*

(Rom 10:17) *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.*

B. In addition, the Word gives success (Joshua 1:8), life (Prov. 16:22), prosperity (Psalm 1:2,3), joy (Psalm 63:5), wisdom (Ps. 119:98), understanding (Psalm 119:99) and peace (Psalm 119:165).

PRINCIPLES

5. Faith is possible without physical sight. (continued)

C. Need to read, memorize, meditate, personalize and harmonize His Word.

(Heb. 3:15) Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

(Rev. 3:20) Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. WHAT THREE LESSONS HAVE I LEARNT FROM THE STUDIES?

Please be in detail and specific.

2. WHAT WILL BE THREE BLESSINGS TO SHARE IN MY LIFE AND MY MINISTRY?

To whom and how?

ASSIGNMENTS



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