

*Sunday 1st August 2021 10 am***“Philip, Jesus is God!”**

Welcome and Opening Scripture (Ps 145:1-3)

Hymn: MP 237 Holy Holy Holy

Bible Reading: Isaiah 6:1-10

Prayer of adoration and praise.

Notices

Communion Preparation, read CH 413,

Main reading: John 1:43-51 (p.1064), John 14:1-14 (p.1082)

Hymn: MP 340 In the tomb so cold they laid him

Sermon “Philip, Jesus is God!”

Hymn MP 367 Jesus is Lord

Close -----

Listen to today’s sermon by clicking on the link at www.knbc.org.The audio file is [21_08_01.mp3](#).***Welcome and pray***

- Magic eye – How about you – are you able to see clearly what is there?

Philip could not see clearly. Not to see clearly in the natural realm can be serious, you will fail your driving test if you cannot make out the number plate. Not to be able to see spiritual things clearly is much more serious.

✚ This was Philip’s problem. X2

This morning we are looking at Philip. But before we go further we must ask “which Philip?” There are four mentioned in the Bible.

We are not thinking about.....

1 - Philip the a son of Herod the Great by his wife Cleopatra, (Luke 3:1)

and brother of Herod Antipas. In the division of Herod’s kingdom, Luke says his brother Philip was tetrarch of Iturea and Trachonitis. The city of Caesarea-Philippi being partly named after him. Nor are we thinking of.....

2 - Herod Philip the son of Herod the Great by Mariamne the daughter of Simon (Mr 6:17)

He lived at Rome as a private person with his wife Herodias and his daughter Salome. We read of him in the account of John the Baptist who was first imprisoned and then beheaded. John as a prophet spoke to Herod about unlawfully taking Herodias his brother **Philip**’s wife, Mt 14:3.

3- Then there is Philip the Deacon

Mentioned in the list of seven deacons in Ac 6:5. After the stoning of Stephen and the resulting persecution the Apostles stayed in Jerusalem while the other believers fled. We are told Philip went to Samaria and was prominent in the revival the Lord brought there. He was then called to speak to the Ethiopian Eunuch on his way back from the festival in Jerusalem. You know the story. He is called Philip the evangelist.

4 - But this morning it is Philip the Apostle

What do we know this Philip? He is one of the twelve apostles and a native of Bethsaida, "**the city of Andrew and Peter**". He is one of the first called by the lake Galilee. He readily responded to the call of Jesus who said to Him ‘**Follow me.**’ This is first instance of Jesus calling a disciple. He is several times mentioned as ministering in Phrygia, and died at Hierapolis in Syria.

What is he commended for? Or just as usefully - what was he rebuked for?

He is best known for his question to Jesus in the upper room. Jesus is with his disciples preparing them for his imminent departure. Thomas asks a question which Jesus answers in the famous 14:6.

Then Philip pipes up v8 "**Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.**" For Philip at this moment it is not **enough**, there is something amiss, something missing. Show me the father then that will be **enough**. He is not like Thomas who wanted not only to see but also to touch. Here Philip will be satisfied with sight alone – or will he. **Jesus answered: "Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?"**

In other words, Jesus is saying “you have had plenty of time of observe me so why haven’t you seen that I and the father are one?” Is there something wrong with Philip’s eyes? Somehow he is not seeing clearly - he only looks at things naturally not spiritually. Before Philip is the evidence, it’s been three long years – could he not see that Jesus is more than just ‘a man’?

Here is the essence of Philips problem. He looks at things naturally, carnally

Let us trace back and see just how Philip has viewed Jesus....

Please turn to - John 1:43

Jesus’ call comes to Philip “**follow me**”. This is not a blind call. God does not call people without first showing who Christ is. Jesus’s early ministry furnished good evidence for these fishermen. – All could see.

Here Philip says to Nathanael "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." John 1:45

Philip, well versed in the Scriptures sees who Jesus is, but it is only through one eye, as if Philip is squinting. He still has his dark glasses on. Philip sees in monochrome, it is all one dimensional. Here he sees Jesus the man, **Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus the son of Joseph, Jesus the prophet**, the prophet as after Moses. Is this it? Is that it? Philip is defective in his vision.

Jesus is the Son of God, not just of Joseph His reputed father, the husband of Mary. **Philip is sincere in his aim, but defective in his knowledge** "We have found Him" not quite, it was Christ who found him, not he Christ.

Will he with this statement appeal to the critical, cynical Nathanael? Philip replied with the best argument, experimental proof "**Come and see,**" x2.

The result of Jesus' interaction with Nathanael produces a very different result. Nathanael did come and seen and confidently declared, "**Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.**" yes "**you are the Son of God**" He has Spiritual eyes to see. Jesus then gives the principle that he who has - more will be given - by saying v50 "**You shall see greater things than that.**" And commending him by adding, "**I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.**" Joh 1:43-51

In the list of apostles Philp is always placed next/coupled with Bartholomew - that is Nathanael his friend and convert, Nathanael is from Cana in Galilee.

[Next we turn to - John 6:5](#)

At the feeding of the 5000 v5 says **When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"** John in his usual manner adds the useful comment v6 "**He asked this only to test him.** Hadn't Philip seen Jesus do miracles? Yes many, could he heal the sick? Yes, could He drive out demons? Yes, Could he calm the storm? Yes, could he provide food, no. On being tested Philip failed, through unbelief – But what would I say? What would you say?

Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Here is the non-spiritual, the natural, the carnal, the faith-less reply. Can't be done, no Christian should be living in a can't be done, can't do world. "Can't do" is incompatible with the Christian life.

✚ It was this materialistic trend of mind in Philip that induced Jesus to ask as he did. Jesus did to him - as he does to us – endeavouring to awaken and nurture faith in His disciples.

The is another angle to this, the feeding of the 5000 was near Bethsaida Lu 9:10, Philip's home town. Philip was probably the one whose duty it was to provide the daily food for the twelve. Joh 1:44 Hence Andrew to chips in.

[Please turn with me to - John 12:20](#)

The next time he appears is close to the end, as the Passover approaches; "20 **Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.**" Joh 12:20-22

"We want to see Jesus", how we love to hear people say that. And it often comes from the most unlikely source. We are thinking how Philip sees Jesus, here some Greeks coming to Jerusalem for the Passover want to see Jesus.

Why Philip? They approach him attracted by his Greek name as with Andrew. This probably explains why Philip then turns to Andrew. A Greek name implies he had Greek connections and maybe having an inquirer's spirit could therefore sympathize with their doubts and difficulties.

But why mention **Bethsaida** - again? We have been told that already so it must be significant, maybe these Greeks were from that area, north of the lake and East were Greek areas, remember the herd of pigs, [that's where some would pop over to for their bacon butties!](#)

[What of Bethsaida? \(Mark 8:22f\)](#)

Those in Bethsaida had seen Jesus's power. Jesus warned them "**Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!** (both close together) **If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.** Mt 11:21 same in Lu 10:13

Bethsaida had had miracles performed in their town but it had meant nothing to them. They were hard, like stone, unmoved, unaffected, stubborn. There comes a point when there will be no more chances. No more warning, that is it. God is so gracious, so patient, so long suffering but the time comes when that is it. Nothing can be done – nothing will be done. That person is on their own – only to await the inevitable judgment. **Gosp. appeal/warning**

So when Jesus healed the blind man in front of the disciples we are told Jesus **took the blind man by the hand - and led him outside the village.** x2.

At the end ²⁶ Jesus sent him home, saying, "**Don't go into the village.**" Mr 8:22-26

The AV says **Neither go into the town, and adds nor tell it to any in the town.**

Jesus had brought them to a village where the people were faithless - to teach the disciples about the serious consequences of having no faith.

Bethsaida had rejected what was done in their town, they had refused the evidence, they had refused to turn and now only Judgment. So it is with anyone today. How serious it is to reject what has been shown to them.

CROSS

To see evidence of God at work, of the divine, of the supernatural and then attribute it to something natural, give a natural explanation is the devil's ploy. The devil will re-interpret the clearest of divine interventions.

He will prompt you to think that that answered prayer was just coincidence

The Dunkirk film ignores three most unlikely factors turned the tables – the nation after all had been praying and there were many righteous people.

Jesus responds to the inquiring Greeks by laying out his passion suffering / the gospel. As Jesus prays to the father **a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, - and will glorify it again."** Joh 12:28

And the response? **The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him."** Joh 12:29

There's the natural interpretation - and the spiritual interpretation, and you?

■ I remember G. Verwer declaring "I am so unspiritual"

That really encouraged me, how I feel the same! I am so unspiritual, so inclined to be carnal not spiritual in my mind and outlook. So often it feels in my Christian life like I am back at square one, at the beginning again.

If you feel that way then we are in good company for the Apostle Paul also said "**I am unspiritual**", Ro 7:14.

Our flesh wars against the spirit & things of God, so too the world around.

✚ **Living in the West today we particularly need to be aware of our rationalism, materialism.**

In African and other parts of the world it is different. They view the world and events as if driven by spirits and the spirit world. Something that some evangelists capitalise on.

■ During the height of the cold war US President MacArthur coined a phrase "watch out for the reds under the beds". There are some who see demons under every bed.

It is easy to frown on those who see spirits everywhere.

Our modernist western view is very naturalistic. Beware if you who are keen TV watchers - everything is given a naturalistic interpretation.

✚ **Having moved to our postmodern worldview you might be tempted to think that the experiential approach to life will help – this unfortunately is countered by a wanton dislike of truth.**

Let us as Christians not follow others and succumb to a natural interpretation of everything. Let us acknowledge the spiritual and do so publically. As Christians let us declare the Lordship of Christ - and that He is the Son of God, God Lord over all. And He is at work in His world.

How easy it is to rob Christ of his divinity. To rob him of his power, and to internalise our Christian life.

So from now on we regard no-one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 2Co 5:16

What is God doing in your life? What is he doing in your ministry?

Are there advances for the Kingdom? And what of those reverses? I have become increasingly aware of the work of the devil playing on my life.

So we are driven to seek Christ's divine power in prayer.

In John 12:45 Jesus says "**When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me**".

If only this saying had sunk deep into Philip's mind how different it would have been just a little while later in the upper room. "Philip are you like that blind man of Bethsaida who cannot see clearly?" "Are you still reaching out your hands as if in the dark." No wonder Jesus continues ⁴⁶ **I have come into the world as a light, so that no-one who believes in me should stay in darkness."** Joh 12:45-46

Reasons to trust Jesus

So back in John 14 – "Philip you don't have to say **8 Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.**"

✚ "Philip, Jesus is God" x2 yes He is God, Can you now see?

Are you with all your OT knowledge really asking to see God – and die? It's an extraordinary request. No-one has seen God – or can see God - and live!

9 **Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? - 3 years is a long time - Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"**

Then Jesus graciously says to Philip, get out the check-list.

So please let your fingers walk with me through v10 – v14.

Here is Christ's CV - First His character 10 **Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?** Godly character - Father in Son in unity

To emphasise the point he immediately repeats it 11 **Believe me x2 when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;**

...and here are the reasons can you not see that I speak the word of God and do the work of God **The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.** *Words - and work*

Philip you have seen plenty of evidence **or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.** Miracles attest to Christ's divinity.

What is more this power is now for you - you and I this morning – 12 **I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.**

You likewise can and should live supernaturally. It is what Peter describes as his **divine power which gives us everything for life and Godliness** so that **He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.**

The power will come from the father, 13 **And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.** The power of the Son to do what is prayed for, for the purposes of father / Son are the same.

14 **You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.** You can even pray to me – as God, you are invited to pray to me says Jesus the son of God

Application in ministry

As a Christian your life is a supernatural life and the work he is called you to - of making Christ known to the lost - is a spiritual supernatural work. It is powered by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Expect things to happen!

There are plenty of examples in the Bible, it is full of them from end to end.

Gideon is called to defeat a great enemy the Midianites **"Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand.** Really, go in my strength? I can't, that would be hopeless, what can I achieve? Do you feel that way? It can all look so hopeless - but the God who calls says **"Am I not sending**

you?" and **"I will be with you"** Jud 6:14,16 **"Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he was given boldness - and power - and victory"** Jud 6:34

Joshua was told to take on the enemy. But the battle is the Lord's. He gives the victory, lead by Jesus Christ **the commander of the army of the Lord.**

So too with the Ministry the Lord has called you to - is a spiritual work. Expect, see, like the watchman look out for what the Lord will do.

The Iranian Christian Mojtaba in Prison - thought spiritually, saw clearly!

■ Joyce Cooke had a fall which took her to the QE and now to a rehab home. She was so full of the Lord it was a delight to listen to. She saw that it was the Lord who brought her there and had opened up to witness. She had prayed to be useful in witness – And here was one answer to her prayers. When you pray for people to witness to don't be surprised where he takes you. She thinks spiritually,

Both he and Joyce saw Jesus clearly. We have a spiritual ministry.

■ Just up the road is/was the Navigation Pub, the 'Navy' that popular watering hole. It is being refurbished into a Weatherspoon's. When I had a call from the site manager to use the building how would I approach it? naturally was it for staff meeting or would there be muddy boots and leaving the place in a mess? No it is for the engineers to meet each week to discuss progress. I immediately felt the Lord was in it as an opportunity to help and for new contact, to spread abroad the aroma of His son. So I handed him a Key.

What does it mean to you that Christ is God?

That he is now God the Saviour and should be turned to before he is God your Judge.

That he is the most important person in the universe and deserves you love, your worship, your obedience.

That if you know him you can rely on Him as God for his power over all things – trust him - and His Sovereign leading over all things. - Trust him!

✚ Yes - If Jesus Christ is God and gave up his life for me – how can I now not give all things for him.

When you wonder, wobble, waver because you can't see clearly, remember the words Jesus said: **"Don't you know me....., Put your name here. As he said to know me is to know God** John 8:19 –

You do know Him - so you have everything. x2

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