

May 28th 2006: Missionary month> John 1:43-51. Being a Missionary isn't hard

(John Soet.....You are now entering the Mission Field.....)

Because its so true---→**Both inside and outside of this place**.....evry believer
..is a light shining for Jesus....**We have a mission**which is to draw others
....closer to Jesus

But the really wonderful thing.....is that this mission is not impossible
In fact.....its not really that hard.....**because it's** the Lord itself who makes it happen

*(I recall some years ago.....Justin.....faced with a rebuild.....Man who sold.....
I would never attempt.....alone.....But with this man.....it turned out real well)*

The Lord does not ask you to be a Missionary in your own strength....wisdom
He expects you rely upon Him continuously.....To see Him as constantly alongside

- We see this Illustrated.....story of Philip and Nathanael
- John 1:43.....

The first part of the Story--→About Jesus Finding Philip
For obviously Philip needed to be found himself...before he.....
And it is Jesus who finds him

This is different to the story of Andrew and John.....
They found Jesus...in the sense.....began to follow Him

But here Jesus finds Philip and challenges him with the words→Follow me !

- **And surely that's how Jesus works today.....**
We may have been brought up.....or come along to church group later on
.. we have been talked to about Jesus.....preached at..... loved

But the reason we became a follower.....

IS because one day we sensed JESUS speaking into our very heart
Saying to us.....Follow me.....and like Philip we responded to that

NOW The really exciting thing about Philip's story...

is that he is not one of the super Apostles
He is not a Peter or a John

In fact we only hear of him in three other places

And he comes across as a man who thought in materialistic terms rather than..Faith

Who tended to be more negative.....

And who looked to others to take the lead...make the decisions

• **Yet Jesus sought Him outand in that one phrase is born hope for all
Jesus wants everyone on His team**

Extrovert and Introvert....The quite achiever and the up front leader

The one with ten talents is just as import as.....the one with one

Jesus values us all with a great depth of love.....and He says to you as He says to me
Follow me.....And the Greek tense means.....Follow me continuously & completely

He has a plan for your today....tomorrow.....and every day of your life

And each day he wants u to commit yourself anew to His plan for u.....

To say to him.....I still trust you....And I'm still prepared to follow you wherever

• **That's the first requirement to being used by God.....
.To be found by Him daily as His follower**

It was this that then led on to the finding of Nathanael

Pretty soon after he himself had been found.....Philip finds Nathanael

It would seem that N was the thinking type

And that he and Philip had spent time previously.....searching....clues to the Messiah

- **Philip now wants to share with him about Jesus.**

They were already mates.....So he feels able to go to him ...startling bit of news
.....v45...

It's quite obvious.....operating from a very shallow knowledge base
Jesus of Nazareth....a small town in the despised area of Galilee...***son of Joseph***
Doesn't really sound like the Messiah !!!!!

Philip hasn't got that much to say.....yet he still shares
He is aware I'm sure...that he has no real answers.....any questions that N might ask
But he still raises the matter...

It is as tho he feels.....**doesn't have to have all the answers**
Consequently when N pours scorn.....he doesn't get defensive!!!

When N says--→Can anything good come....He doesn't act as tho being attacked
Neither does he back down....retreat

He simply says.....**Come and see**
He is confident in Jesus to persuade...to convince...to impress
For Jesus ...not him...is the Messiah

This is what I meant....this type of Missionary work is not as hard as we sometimes
make it out to be
Because we too can trust Jesus to do his part

Indeed Just look at this story....to see how it happened
When Nathanael comes to Jesus.....Jesus already knows all about Him

Only Jesus can speak the words that touch the heart.....
And here he does just that

He so amazes Nathanael.....that his immediate response is:
You are the Son of God.....The King of Israel

- **Can you imagine....how Philip must have felt**
ABSOLUTELY delighted

Jesus had come through.....Just as he believed he would
And now Nathanael was a follower too.....

Now this was a special case
An instant and positive result.....And Jesus was present in the flesh

Our Missionary work is usually very different
Often it can be many years...of praying for.....and gently prodding
Before someone responds to the invite.....and opens themselves to see Jesus

- **But the principal remains the same**
We should not hold back.....because we don't know enough....
Can't answer all the questions.....Haven't got the spiritual maturity of others

We have Jesus alongside us.....If He lays someone on our heart...we should act on it
Do whatever we feel Jesus wants us to do.....even if that seems a small....strange thing

Because it is Jesus who is in charge.....He will change a heart
But He does want us to be trusting instruments

Each of us missionaries.....believing that He has the power to use even us
To achieve His Master plan

