**“Called to What?”**

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1 Samuel 3:1-10

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

Epiphany 2

“The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow Me.’”

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and from our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bridge

Philip wasn’t the first to be “**called by God**”, or would he be the last. People have always been **called by God**. Jesus did it here again just as He did in the Gospel reading’s previous paragraph. The with another (Philip’s own brother summoned by the mouth of Philip himself) was called by God in Christ Jesus … and that before even the paragraph of our reading concludes.

Have **you** ever wondered **if** (and **to what**) **YOU’VE** been called by God to **be within God’s purpose** and **to do that’s of God’s design and will**?

Text

In today’s text, Jesus is demonstrated as **Him who was always God** … and **calling**. We’re now fully into what’s named the Epiphany **Season** / a season set aside to **notice Jesus being** **shown for who He is (demonstrated to be God)**. And here (in, particular, Nathanael’s calling) it’s told us that **even as a man, Jesus expressed a knowledge that only Heaven could have** … and that **ability** **was** **in Him**. In the account: His “next day” (the “next day” from when He as God in flesh was noted calling to discipleship two others in Andrew and Peter), “Jesus decided to go also to Galilee, **where He, then, found Philip and said to him**, **“Follow Me”**. Philip (it accounted) was from “Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter”. And, so, what we here know that **God’s call of people** happens in locations and within a span of time and circumstance. It’s all a **deliberate thing that’s from God (a calling) connected to (and through) the events and moments of this world**.

“Andrew and Peter” were another set of brothers who Jesus called on the **day before**. John the Baptist pointed Jesus out to them (his disciples at the time) and **they followed the One in whom they should**. **John made** the introduction (that was **his calling**). He’d faithfully (and to the end / the martyrdom of his life for it) spoke of and prepared people for a discipleship in the Messiah, Jesus … he as one **guiding people to God in and through God’s Son**. **Disciples would always be defined by that calling of guiding and preparing people for God in and through God’s Son (friends and parents in Christ for Christ for co-workers, fellow students at school, both the young and the old)**.

The end of John’s first chapter is, first of all, an **Epiphany** text … of Jesus and His intent to call others who’ll extend calls to people for Him. **The text shows** Jesus as the divine and all-knowing God, all-expressing then the knowledge of the Godhead, Father with Son and Holy Spirit, His authority and will (that Godhead even in Christ Jesus embodied as a man), **telling (speaking) the Godhead’s authority and will** with the lips (human) that He’d gained in the Christmas’ birth what **He’d always said to call and empower disciples** **for Himself as He wills for everybody**: “God desires that all people **be saved** and **come to the knowledge of truth**” and pass that forward, “making disciples of all nations” / everybody “by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them” (all of them / each of them) to observe and enjoy / do all that He’d commanded”. The **calling** **(what disciples / WE in this room baptized, so started in this call formally if not through the Word even before that) is to help make MORE CALLED**, and **we’ve got God’s desire and baptism and teaching as a roadmap to help CALL, SO MAKE, MORE**.

Specifically, **disciples** are called to **be continually available** and **observant of Him (to listen and notice Him, to know ourselves as seen by God** and to **see ourselves (to look for what’s promised and visible (even now) to notice, know right from wrong (and quickly and accurately able to discern that, troubled by the wrong, and to thank the source of Good that’s God as He fulfills promises for gifts and “daily bread”, and a Good outcome from bad circumstances, and blessings, then eternity perfect**. It’s a **deliberate consciousness to gather others to that same blessedness and duty (it’s God’s disciples in Christ Jesus, faithful and in faith, who will fill Paradise for the eternity that follows this life) … Heaven is huge and can accommodate all who will receive that call, simple in acceptance and appreciation**.

Jesus (the Heavenly Father’s Son, incarnate / en-fleshed) “**knew** Nathanel / **saw him / heard his talking and even his thinking while he was yet sitting under an afar off fig tree**”. He **did, (because He could) knew** **also** Andrew and Peter before ever searching them out to make the Father’s call to them clear and apparent **to them**. He (God in God’s Son) **knew** John from centuries beforehand (planned for him). He **knew** Philip, **sent him even to** **let Nathanael know** that **He knew all of them and all people before (well before even) they would (any of them) be inclined His direction**. They were **forecast, pre-ordained even, and destined to hear the call of the Gospel even particularly before parents ever conceived of them**.

**YOU WERE TOO**.

Application

**To be a disciple of God through and in Christ Jesus is to be available for that (baptismally prepared then made conscious by teaching)**, **observant to listen and notice things and know ones-self seen and noticed by God IN PARTICULAR)**. We **see ourselves through our God and Lord, looking (eyes open and intent) for all He’s ever promised to us that is (in so many ways) visible to be noticed by us, and thankful (and to the appropriate Source that’s God for all that’s Good, as He fulfills His promises to us)**, us **deliberate then to gather others to the same discipleship (not perfectly, but purposefully, knowing that it’s disciples of God in Christ Jesus who will fill the Paradise of Heaven for all the eternity and follow Him during this life and want that gift and purpose to be with others**.All that seems very **ADULT**,so, yes, the message is **for ADULTS gathered to remember it … but more** …

… **ADULT** to hear again about this calling and duty and heed **IT** and to **be and do** **IT** isn’t a call that’s determined by age. We know Abraham got called at age 75, and we’re reminded (especially today) of a **young boy named Samuel**. We don’t know his age at this account, but he was, for sure, a **youngster who was called deliberately to the task of discipleship. He was called by a calling through of his mother, Hannah. He was called through the Church and his pastor, Eli. And He was called through the Voice of God Eli told him he should pay attention to. His future (from there) is well documented for us. He was what God wanted him to be, and he continued to be that, being helpful to make more disciples for God all throughout his earthly life**.

**We** have an abundance of **Samuel’s in this congregation** … in the immediate and extended families of our parish and connections. Sunday mornings fill us with the sight of young Samuels, boys and girls, called to being in Jesus through baptism then into duty and purpose as disciples.

It is my prayer, like with Eli, that all the young connected to this hearing directly or through parents or grandparents, even connections just loosely through friendships or whatever, that we’d encourage and coach the young and old alike (ourselves included) to “**listen**”.

May we be **available to Him** and **observant of Him, seeing ourselves seen by God and seeing Him (looking for and noticing Him as He fulfills promises with us. And may we help make disciples of others, bring to baptism and guiding and instructing all who God wishes saved and knowledgeable / purposeful about truth.**

All this **I** pray … **we** pray … in the name of +Jesus. Amen.