

- ↳ **Luke 6:12-16**, It's amazing, when you look at the details of people's lives, who God picked to be used for His purposes. He hung so much on so little! Even with all these flaws so many are used so powerfully and so much of the Old Testament hangs on them. So, it shouldn't really surprise us when we get to the New Testament and God picks His 12 that they are men with some significant flaws.
- ↳ None are theologians, religious leaders, famous, powerful, or noble; all are as common as grass. **1st Corinthians 2:1-5**, These men were afforded the highest honor ever given to any human being; Jesus's representative; Jesus' power of attorney, **Matthew 10:40**. The key is that they were nothing and knew it and were completely surrendered to Him. That's the big message about these men.

1. Take a look at the fifth name on the list, that of Phillip.

- ✓ Phillip was also from Bethsaida. The name Phillip is Greek; it means "Horse lover," had a Hebrew name, but we don't know it. We meet him for the first time in **John 1:43** The first one to whom Jesus actually said "Follow Me."
- ✓ **John 1:45**, First of all, it says that Jesus found him. Notice: Phillip was a student of the Old Testament; no, degree, but a serious Bible student. He starts off well, but flounders in faith not too much later. **John 6:5-7**, Why did He ask Phillip that?, "to test him," didn't they all need testing?
- ✓ Testing Phillip because this is weakness; believing, despite the odds. Jesus tests us not because He's not sure, but because we don't know what's in us.
- ✓ What's Phillip like? He's already been counting noses; already he's figured on the logistics of it all. Got to have people like that, but sometimes they can't see the forest of the trees; that's Phillip. Jesus knew Phillip; He knew he'd already been doing the math. Already had thought ahead to how the evening might end.
- ✓ **John. 12:20-21**, Why did they come to Phillip? Because Phillip was sort of a clearing house, the arrangements guy. Skeptical, analytical, pessimistic; all have a hard time with faith because the numbers have to work, you see.

2. Our next apostle was a friend of Phillip's, Nathanael.

- ✓ Nathanael means gift of God; otherwise, called Bartholemew which was like a last name. Simon was also called Simon Bar-jona "son of Jonah", likewise, Nathaniel was Bar-tholemew "son of tholemew."
- ✓ **John 1:45-46**, He speaks to his friend here on biblical terms, because he's a student of the Bible. He responds with prejudice; we hear a lot about prejudice these days. It's an ugly thing, very effective at cutting people off from the truth.
- ✓ In some sense, Israel rejects her Messiah because of prejudice, from Nazareth, from Galilee, son of a carpenter, uneducated in their schools of thought, outside of their religious order. Notice how to deal with prejudice. "Come and see" because prejudice is not objective; it's subjective. Not based on facts but on feelings.
- ✓ Jesus deals with his prejudice with proof; "I saw you under the fig tree." **John 1:46-49**, Jesus tells him his heart, and he tells him He saw it before He was anywhere near or could have seen him. Nathanael comes with all this prejudice and skepticism, but with truth he completely shifts sides. He gets before any of the other apostles; they trickle in, Judas never does. Nathaniel buys in right from the beginning.

It's not what you are and it's not what you've got or bring; it's what Jesus can make of you, but you've got to lay it all down.
