

# Sermon Title: Jesus calls Nathanael

- John 1:43-end
- Setting: seeing and understanding
- **Seeing Beyond Physical Sight**
  - Draws parallels between the verb "to see" and the concept of understanding in English.
  - Emphasises that despite good physical sight, none of us sees entirely clearly in our perceptions of others and the world.
- **Nathaniel's Story**
  - Highlights the cultural context, with Philip and Nathaniel having different backgrounds.
- **Transformation of Vision**
  - Describes Nathaniel's transformative journey from prejudice to recognising Jesus as the Son of God and the King of Israel.
- **Christian Calling**
  - Expands on the Christian calling beyond worship and service, suggesting that a high calling is to 'see' clearly.
  - Urges the congregation to understand the truth, especially in a world filled with suspicion, hostility, and factionalism.
- **Role of the Holy Spirit**
  - Encourages allowing the Holy Spirit to work within, challenging preconceptions and seeking the truth.
  - Prompts self-reflection on preconceived attitudes and prejudices.
- **Graham Greene's Insight**
  - Quotes Graham Greene, stating that hatred is a failure of imagination and not seeing others as they truly are.
- **Ultimate Goal: Seeing as God Sees**
  - Discusses the ultimate goal of seeing ourselves and others as God sees, quoting St. Paul, and acknowledges the limitation of fully achieving this perspective in this life.
- **Practical Application**
  - Urges starting the journey of clear vision with self-reflection.
  - Encourages seeing oneself as uniquely loved children of God as a basis for understanding others.
- **Conclusion**
  - Concludes by suggesting that the congregation can follow Nathaniel's journey, moving from prejudice to seeing clearly and sharing that vision with others

## Discussion Points / Points to Ponder:

1. **Personal Reflection:** How has your own background, upbringing, and life experiences shaped your perception of others and the world?
2. **Filters and Prejudices:** Consider the filters and biases that might influence how you see people or situations. How might these filters hinder a clear understanding?
3. **Transformation:** Reflect on moments in your life when your perception or understanding changed significantly. What contributed to these transformations?
4. **Seeing Others:** In what ways do you find it challenging to see others as they truly are? How can a failure of imagination contribute to misunderstandings and conflicts?
5. **Spiritual Vision:** How can we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us to challenge and refine our perspectives? What practices or attitudes might facilitate this process?
6. **Self-Perception:** Reflect on how you see yourself. Do you tend to undervalue or overvalue your worth? How might viewing yourself as a uniquely loved child of God impact your perception of others?
7. **Forgiveness and Compassion:** Explore the concept of forgiveness, as illustrated by Bishop Wilson's example. How does the ability to see others with compassion relate to forgiveness?
8. **Cultural and Social Perspectives:** Discuss how cultural, social, or political factors can shape the way people see each other. How can Christians contribute to bridging divides and fostering understanding?
9. **Theological Perspective:** What does it mean to see others as God sees them? How can we align our vision with God's perspective, even though our understanding remains limited in this life?
10. **Application:** How can you practically apply the lessons from Nathaniel's journey in your own life? What steps can you take to foster clearer vision and understanding in your relationships and interactions?

## Alternative Questions:

1. How does Philip's invitation to Nathaniel, "Come and see," resonate with the idea of sharing our faith with others today?
2. Reflect on the filters and prisms mentioned in the sermon that influence our perception. What are some common filters in our lives that might impact how we see others and the world?
3. What lessons can we draw from Nathaniel's transformation about overcoming prejudices and preconceptions?
4. How does the concept of 'seeing' clearly align with our understanding of the Christian calling?
5. In what practical ways can we strive to 'see' truthfully, considering the various filters that influence our perception?
6. How does the ability to forgive connect with the act of seeing others as they truly are?
7. Reflect on the suggestion to start with ourselves and see as uniquely loved children of God. How can a positive self-perception influence the way we perceive and interact with others?
8. In what ways can we share our own transformative journeys with others, fostering a community that encourages growth and understanding?