

The Chosen – Season 2 - Episode 2

I Saw You



You can watch this episode via The Chosen app on your smartphone or tablet, or via your web browser on thechosen.tv [here](#).

Scripture references:

- > Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael – [John 1:43-51](#)
- > Hear, O Israel – [Deuteronomy 6:4-5](#)
- > Do not hide your face from me – [Psalm 27:7-95](#)
- > The twelve disciples – [Matthew 10](#)

Synopsis:

In a sentence: We see what life was like for Jesus and his disciples as he begins his public ministry.

The episode opens in Caesarea Philippi¹ with a young architect, Nathanael², facing ruin as the extravagant temple he designed to glorify God collapses during its construction.

After the opening credits the disciples are joined by one of John the Baptist's followers, Phillip. Matthew struggles to fit in with the group, is regularly berated by Simon, and experiences manual labor for the first time. Phillip takes Matthew under his wing, both encouraging him and offering advice on how to fit in, including suggesting Matthew perhaps tell some jokes. We encounter Nathanael again now in total despair over the collapse of his architectural career. Sitting under a tree in the midst of the wilderness outside Caesarea Philippi Nathanael burns his sketches and blueprints, heaps their ashes upon himself and calls out to God asking Him if he even sees him. Departing for Syria, Jesus and the disciples stop for a night in Caesarea Philippi and Phillip looks up his long-time friend Nathanael. Nathanael mocks Phillip for suggesting the Son of Man could be someone from Nazareth but realizes the truth of what Phillip claims when he meets Jesus.

Memorable lines of dialogue:

Foreman to Nathanael: "You're ruined, do you hear me? It's over!"

Simon to a group of disciples: "That's Matthew for you. He checks the flooded ravines for wood. Probably fishes in the desert too."

Phillip to Matthew: "I *'was'* something else too. Once you've met the Messiah *'am'* is all that matters."

Phillip to Matthew: "Well, you haven't felt any relief except under him, the Rabbi, right?"

Matthew to Phillip: "No."

Phillip to Matthew: "Well, don't expect to."

Matthew to Simon: "People out there want to define us by our past, but we do things differently because of him (Jesus)."

Nathanael crying out to God: "Do not hide your face from me. Do you not see me?"

Jesus to Nathanael: "If we don't make time for friends, we won't have any."

Thaddaeus to Matthew: "What are you doing?"

Matthew to Thaddaeus: "Just taking notes on what I see. At first it was hard but now it's become a habit."

Thaddaeus to Matthew: "I think prayer is like that. The way Rabbi taught me, now I love it."

Phillip to Nathanael: "You don't know what your impact was, or will be."

Phillip to Nathanael: "He's the one. Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph."
Nathanael to Phillip: "Nazareth? <laughs>. Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
Phillip to Nathanael: "Come and see."

Jesus to Nathanael: "When you were in your lowest moment, and were alone, I did not turn my face from you. I saw you, under the fig tree."

Jesus to Nathanael: "So, you wanted to build something that would bring souls closer to God, yes? Can you start tomorrow?"

Watch for this:



[Starting at 11:24]

In this scene we learn some of Matthew's past as a child, his feelings of not belonging, and we see Phillip come alongside Matthew and begin to mentor and encourage him.



[Starting at 15:10]

In this scene we see Nathanael calling out to God in his despair.



[Starting at 21:02]

In this scene we see Nathanael pouring the ashes of his burnt architectural drawings over himself.



[Starting at 41:30]

In this extended scene we see Phillip telling Nathanael about Jesus, Nathanael's reaction when he learns Jesus came from Nazareth, and Nathanael's reaction when Jesus tells him "I saw you under the fig tree".

Questions for discussion:

1. What stood out for you in this episode? Were there any scenes or dialog that particularly spoke to you? Why?
2. In this episode we see Phillip coming along beside Matthew, encouraging and mentoring him. Who did something similar in your life? What impact did they have?
3. As happened to Nathanael, have you ever poured yourself into a project for God's glory, only to see it fall apart? Share your story if comfortable doing so.
4. The poem [Footprints in the Sand](#) may come to mind when you watch the scene [at 15:10] of Nathanael sitting under the tree. Was there a time in your life when you felt God didn't see you, but now looking back on that period you realize He was indeed with you? Share your story if comfortable doing so.
5. If you have had the opportunity to look at some of the [Going Deeper](#) resources (below), was there anything that stood out for you?

For personal reflection:

6. **Over the course of the coming week:** ask Jesus what he wanted to show you or teach you in this episode. If you are comfortable doing so, please consider sharing what comes to mind with the group next week.

Going deeper:

- From his *The Chosen Explained* series: Brandon Robbins' deep dive on this episode is available on YouTube [here](#).
- This episode's Round Table discussion by a group of Biblical Experts can be seen [here](#).
- You can read about the significance of Caesarea Philippi in the Bible [here](#).

- In this [clip](#) from a livestream of this episode, Dallas Jenkins talks about how the character Nathanael is modeled after him.
- In this YouTube [video](#) Brandon Robbins shares insights on *6 Things You Didn't Know About Peter*.

About This Companion:

This Episode Companion is offered as bread and fish for our Lord's use in spreading the good news of the Gospels. Its author, Peter McCaskell, lives in Guelph, Ontario, Canada and attends [Lakeside Church](#). You are welcome to contact Peter via email to peter.mccaskell@rogers.com

End notes:

1. A map of Israel in New Testament times is [here](#). Caesarea Philippi was located about 15 miles north of the Sea of Galilee.
2. He is referred to as Bartholomew or Bartholomew Nathanael in some translations.