



Sermon Outline

DO YOU SEE ME?

John 1:43-51

COME
And **SEE**
FOUNDATION

The
CHOSEN®



Do You See Me?

This resource helps you tell the story of John 1:45-51. It includes a clip from Season Two, Episode 2, to show to the congregation, a suggested script for setting the scene before you show the clip, and a short sermon outline with main teaching points and pastoral prompts.

Sermon Title: Do you See Me?

Text: John 1:43-51

Dominant Thought: We see the goodness of the one who sees us– and we want him to be seen by others.

[Download the Episode Clip](#)

Setting the Scene (suggested script)

Throughout Season One of *The Chosen*, you meet a good number of the women and men who followed Jesus. Mary Magdalene. Peter. James and John. Matthew – and many more. It's in Season Two, Episode 2, that we finally meet Nathanael. You might know he's one of the Twelve disciples, but it's understandable if you don't. We don't read much about Nathanael in the Gospels. But if you have ever read one of the few moments Nathanael shows up, you probably haven't forgotten it. In fact it's awfully hard to forget the first moment Nathanael shows up, which also serves as the first moment Jesus shows up in Nathanael's life. *The Chosen* captures it beautifully, and I want us to watch that moment unfold together. To set the scene for you just a bit, throughout this episode we've learned that Nathanael has long been convinced he is called to build a synagogue for the worship of God. The scene we're about to watch begins just after all of his plans have fallen apart. Disappointed in himself – and disappointed with God – he makes his way to a fig tree somewhere just outside of town and collapses against its trunk. Let's watch the scene together...

***If you've never introduced your congregation to *The Chosen*, here is an alternative opening to the script above:** *The Chosen* is a television series that allows folks to get to know the authentic Jesus through the eyes of the women and men who followed him. We meet a good number of those followers in Season One. Mary Magdalene. Peter. James and John. Matthew – and many more. It's in Season Two, Episode 2, that we finally meet Nathanael...

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Introduction

*Show the clip from *The Chosen*, using the suggested script above to set the scene.

*After showing the clip, consider reading the text on which it's based – John 1:43-51. You could transition from the showing of the clip to the reading of the text by saying something like: "That scene is based on John 1:43-51. I know we just watched the story of Nathanael and Jesus; let's listen to it, too." And to transition from the reading of the text to the start of the sermon body, you could say something like: "What's true about Nathanael is true about us all..."

Sermon Body

I. We cry out to be seen by God. (John 1:48 and 50)

Main Teaching Point: There's a reason the writers of *The Chosen* didn't leave out the detail about Nathanael sitting under a fig tree, because that detail is no small thing. In those days, fig trees were traditionally set apart as sacred spaces to study and reflect on the things of God – and to pray in pretty raw ways. In other words, a fig tree was a quiet place to get loud with God. In this particular moment in his life, Nathanael has watched his dreams figuratively burn away to ash, and he'll soon make sure they do so literally. When he cries out from underneath the fig tree, you can see his bewilderment at God's ways. You can see his disappointment with God. And you can see his pain when it appears God simply does not answer him. "Do you see me?" Nathanael seems to be asking. And the silence is deafening.

Pastoral Prompt: We don't gather under fig trees anymore, but we do in the front seat of our car, or in coffeehouse booths, and right there in our own living room. Hundreds of years later, we still make our way to quiet places to get loud with God. We go to some sacred spot to cry out, so that we can be seen by God as we lay out a dream or two that seems to be burning away to ash. Where do you go to be heard and to be seen? Have you been there lately? Do you have a dream that seems to be burning to ash? Do you wonder if he sees you?

II. God cries out through Jesus, so that he might be seen by us. (John 1:47-51)

Main Teaching Point: “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree.” Those words from Jesus to Nathanael had to have been piercing. God did see Nathanael as his dreams burned to ash. And in and through Jesus, and even in and through the burning away of those dreams, God wanted Nathanael to see him. God wanted Nathanael to see a call greater than the building of a local synagogue. God wanted Nathanael to answer the call to follow him, so that globally there might be “prayers and songs and something to bring souls closer to God.”

Pastoral Prompt: As it was true for Nathanael, it’s true for us: we are seen by God. But do we see God? Do we see him there in Jesus, at work even now? And are we allowing him to do that good work in us? Remember that dream that seems to be burning away to ash for you? I suspect it’s a good one, but is it good for it to burn away for a dream that is better? For a dream that has to be better, because it’s God’s and not just yours? Will you let it burn away and see where God takes you?

III. God cries out through us, so that he might be seen by others. (John 1:43-46)

Main Teaching Point: Nathanael is at the heart of our story, but we shouldn’t forget about Philip. Because without Philip, there would be no Nathanael. As soon as Philip discovers the truth about just who Jesus is, the text tells us he “found Nathanael and told him.” And when Nathanael’s only response is cynicism, Philip insists: “Come and see.” God cries out through us, so that he might be seen by others. Nathanael himself is pulled into this work by the end of the text and at the end of the scene from *The Chosen*. He has been seen. He has now seen. The time has come for him to invite others to “come and see.”

Pastoral Prompt: The journey we make is often as follows: We ask of God, “Do you see me?” And God asks of us, “Do you see me?” And once we do, we see that he sees us, and we see that he has long been at work to bring about the best for us. And then he asks of us one more question: “Will you help others see me?” God not only seeks to do a work in us, but also through us.

We are surrounded by people who are gathered under fig trees, clutching to dreams that are burning to ash. Who have you seen in your life who is crying out to be seen by God? How can you help them see that they are seen? How can you help them see God?

Conclusion

*In many ways, the pastoral prompts in the third and final movement serve as a fitting conclusion. The close of the text is missional in nature, so the close of the sermon should probably reflect that.

