

## Sermon Series: John's Gospel- Encounters with Jesus

### Jesus and Nathanael

#### Read John 1.14-18

1. What kinds of fullness should we expect to be revealed in Jesus, according to the opening of John's Gospel?
2. The human heart longs for grace and truth, but also every perfection- love, mercy, true righteousness, power. How have you experienced these longings in your life?
3. How does the opening of John's Gospel, especially chapter 1 v14, 16-17 give us encouragement in our longing for this spiritual fullness?
4. Now we consider the spiritual fullness, the perfection, Nathanael experienced in Jesus. **Read 1.43-51.**
  - a. What perfection is revealed by the Son's presence with Nathanael by the fig tree in Nathanael's home? (v48)
  - b. Describe a time you felt God's presence. For example:
    - a time of need when God drew near and provided
    - in a remote bush location, when no other soul was around, but you sensed Him
    - in the peaceful privacy of your own 'fig tree' sitting on the deck of your backyard with a cuppa
  - c. How does it make you feel to think that this divine presence was not a vague, utterly mysterious being, but the same Son revealed in Jesus of Nazareth?  
  
(For the 'fig tree' as a symbol of home see Zechariah 3.10 or Isaiah 36.16)
  - d. The Son, Jesus, was present to Nathanael by his fig tree. And, he is present everywhere in creation to see, hear, rule and reign. What does this tell us about his Sonship? Is he a lesser god than the Father? Discuss.
  - e. What titles did Nathanael pile upon Jesus when he realised he is everywhere present (v49)?
5. Jesus goes on to stretch Nathanael with the image of Jacob's stairway to heaven (John 1.50-51, Genesis 28.10-22). In the Genesis account, what does Jacob say about Bethel, where he had the dream? (Genesis 28, v16-17).

6. a. How is Jesus similar to, but greater than Bethel?

b. Copy v16-17 of Genesis 28 and replace references to 'this place' with the name 'Jesus'.

7. Spend some time praising the glorious Son of God for his perfections: everywhere present, divine in power, full of grace and truth, love and mercy etc.