

Pastor's Bible Class

January 17, 2021

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 139:1-10

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

³You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.

Read I Samuel 3:1-20.

1. In verse 1, Samuel is described as “ministering” to the Lord. How does young Samuel come to serve in the house of the Lord? See I Samuel 1:9-11; 26-28.

2. What was the state of the Lord’s relationship to His people at this time?

3. In verse 4 we are told, “the Lord called Samuel.” This divine call is repeated again in verse 8. Why doesn’t Samuel recognize the Lord’s call, and what does this mean? See verse 7.

4. What is the essence of God’s word to Samuel? See also I Samuel 2:27-34.

5. How does Eli respond to Samuel’s message from the Lord? What does this tell us about Samuel?

Read John 1:43-51.

6. What had happened on the previous day? See John 1:40-42.
7. How does the text describe the meeting between Jesus and Philip in verse 43?
8. What testimony does Philip give regarding Jesus as he speaks to Nathanael?
9. With what response is Philip's testimony met?
10. What does Jesus say about Nathanael in verse 47? See Romans 9:6.
11. What do Jesus' words to Nathanael in verse 48 show us?
12. How does Nathanael respond to Jesus in verse 49? See also John 1:32-34.
13. Contrast this with Philip's description of Jesus in verse 45.
14. Harold Buls comments on verses 50 and 51 saying, "Jesus addresses Nathanael individually 'you' (singular) but actually addresses all 'you' (plural)" in verse 51. Why is this distinction important? Consider the allusion Jesus makes in verse 51? See Genesis 28:12.
15. Both the Old Testament and Gospel readings dealing with hearing God's call. What conclusions and applications can we draw from these texts about listening to God?

Devotional Thought from "The Lutheran Study Bible"

When Jesus calls the first disciples, He reveals Himself to be the Messiah—the Son of God and Son of Man—the way to heaven. Today, people may still question Jesus' invitation to follow Him. Yet Jesus overcomes unbelief through the Gospel testimony and graciously opens the way to heaven through His Word (TLSB, 1779).

Closing Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect for Epiphany 2).