

Jesus Began His Ministry With a Bridge

Follow Me

JOHN 1:43

Written by Bill Perkins

Andrew was the first to meet Jesus (John 1:35–37).

The first to stay with Him (John 1:39).

The first to bring someone else (John 1:40–41).

He brought his brother—Simon (John 1:41).

And Jesus spoke a new name over him:

Cephas.

Peter.

Rock (John 1:42).

Identity given...

but no calling yet (John 1:42).

Then Jesus went to Galilee

and found Philip—

a Jew

with a Greek name (John 1:43–44).

In a world where names told stories,

Philip's name carried a story most never see—

a family living at the crossroads,

open to the wider world.

And Jesus said to him,

"Follow Me" (John 1:43).

The first explicit calling

in John's Gospel.

Philip ran to Nathanael—

a man whose name means

"God has given,"

rooted in Israel's covenant soil (John 1:45–46).

Philip, the bridge, runs to Nathanael—
bringing him to the One who called him.
(John 1:45).

And later,
when Greeks came seeking Jesus,
who did they approach?
Philip (John 12:20–22).

Of course they did.
The bridge
was still
the bridge.

You may not know this about Jesus—
He began His ministry
with the nations already in His heart (John 12:20–23).
He called a bridge
before He called a fisherman (John 1:40–44).

Where is Jesus inviting me
to be a bridge?

Jesus sees the story in me
long before I do (Psalm 139:1–4).
He knows where my life leans,
and He calls me with a purpose (Ephesians 2:10).

Father, thank You for a Savior
who sees the nations
and sees me (John 3:16; Revelation 7:9).
Lead me by Your Spirit,
and make me faithful to follow
where You call me (Galatians 5:25).
In Jesus' name, amen.