

John 1:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

Analysis

Nathanael's skepticism—'Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?'—reflects regional prejudice. Nazareth was an obscure Galilean village without prophetic significance. Yet Philip's response—'Come and see'—invites investigation rather than argument. Skepticism is best answered by encounter with Christ Himself. Philip doesn't debate geography but offers experience. This approach models effective apologetics: address objections by directing to Christ.

Historical Context

Nazareth was unmentioned in the Old Testament, Josephus, or the Talmud. No prophecy predicted Messiah would come from there (though 'Nazarene' may relate to 'netzer,' the Branch of Isaiah 11:1). Nathanael's question reflects common sentiment—could anything significant emerge from such insignificance? God's pattern of using the despised and weak shines through.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What prejudices or assumptions might blind us to recognizing Christ's work?
2. How can 'Come and see' serve as an effective response to skepticism?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ Ναθαναήλ Ἐκ Ναζαρέτ δύναταί
And **said** **unto him** **Nathanael** **out of** **Nazareth** **Can**
G2532 G2036 G846 G3482 G1537 G3478 G1410

τι ἀγαθὸν εἶναι λέγει αὐτῷ Φίλιππος Ἔρχου καὶ
there any **good thing** **come** **saith** **unto him** **Philip** **Come** **And**
G5100 G18 G1511 G3004 G846 G5376 G2064 G2532

ἵδε
see
G1492

Additional Cross-References

John 7:52 (Parallel theme): They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

John 4:29 (Parallel theme): Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

1 Thessalonians 5:21 (Good): Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.