

John 12:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

Analysis

The Greeks approach Philip, possibly because his Greek name and Bethsaida's Gentile population made him accessible. Their request 'we would see Jesus' models appropriate spiritual hunger—direct, humble seeking. The verb 'see' may mean more than physical sight; possibly fellowship or instruction. Their approach through Philip shows cultural sensitivity and proper protocol. This demonstrates that genuine seeking finds access to Christ. Philip's role as bridge between Greeks and Jesus previews the church's missionary role—connecting seekers with the Savior.

Historical Context

Bethsaida was on the Sea of Galilee's northern shore in a heavily Hellenized region, explaining Philip's Greek name and cultural fluency. Approaching through an intermediary was culturally appropriate.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does 'we would see Jesus' teach about authentic spiritual hunger?
2. How does Philip's bridging role model Christian evangelism?
3. Who is God calling you to connect with Jesus?

Interlinear Text

οὗτοι	οὖν	προσῆλθον	Φιλίππῳ	τῷ	ἀπὸ	
The same	therefore	came	to Philip	G3588	which was of	
G3778	G3767	G4334	G5376		G575	
Βηθσαϊδὰ	τῆς	Γαλιλαίας	καὶ	ἠρώτων	αὐτὸν	λέγοντες
Bethsaida	G3588	of Galilee	and	desired	him	saying
G966		G1056	G2532	G2065	G846	G3004
Κύριε	θέλομεν	τὸν	Ἰησοῦν	ἰδεῖν		
Sir	we would	G3588	Jesus	see		
G2962	G2309		G2424	G1492		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 2:2 (Parallel theme): Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
