

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

Psalm 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^{τῷ}
The same therefore came to Philip which was of

G3778

G3767

G4334

G5376

G3588

G575

Βηθσαΐδα τῆς Γαλιλαίας καὶ ἥρωτων αὐτὸν λέγοντες
Bethsaida of Galilee and desired him saying

G966

G3588

G1056

G2532

G2065

G846

G3004

Κύριε θέλομεν τὸν Ἰησοῦν οἴδειν
Sir we would Jesus see

G2962

G2309

G3588

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.

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