

## Twelve Ordinary Men How the Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness and What He Wants to Do With You

Chapter 6- Philip The Bean Counter- The Dense Disciple Jesus Loved  
Matthew 10: 5-6, Matthew 15:24, John 1:11-12, 43-47, John 6:1-7, John 12: 20-21,  
John 14:1-11, John 21: 2-3, I Corinthians 1:27-29

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### I. Introduction

Some of the characteristics of Philip are described on page 121. How could Jesus shape Philip for greatness when he was not a visionary ?

Assume you are a church leader, would you be able to work with someone like Philip ?

### II. Outline of Chapter 6

#### A. Philip: His Calling-Review pages 121-124

1. Philip is the first disciple chosen by Jesus. Jesus physically sought out Philip, and he was the first one to whom Jesus actually said, “ Follow me.”

2. Philip was an eager and willing disciple.

3. Philip had a seeking heart, which is evident by how he responded to Jesus.

4. Philip had obviously been studying the Law and the Prophets and was seeking the Messiah.

5. The Lord found Philip, but Philip felt he found the Lord. Both things are true from the human perspective. But from a biblical perspective, we know that God's choice is the determinative one. “ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you.”  
John 15:16.

6. Philip not only had a seeking heart, but he also had the heart of a personal evangelist. His first response upon meeting Jesus was to find his friend Nathanael and tell him about the Messiah.

7. Philip was ready to receive Jesus. He was expectant. His heart was prepared. He gladly received Jesus.

#### B. The Feeding of the Five Thousand-Review pages 124-127

1. Philip's heart was right. He was a man of faith. Often he was a man of weak faith.

2. Why did Jesus single Philip out and ask him , “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat ?”

3. Was Philip overly concerned with organization and protocol ?

4. Philip was the type of person who in every meeting says, “ I don't think we can do that.”- the master of the impossible.

5. Jesus was testing Philip. John says Jesus already knew what He Himself was going to do. He was testing Philip so that Philip would reveal to himself what he was like.

6. According to John 6:7, all that pessimistic Philip could see was the impossibility of the situation.

7. When Jesus tested Philip's faith, he responded with open unbelief. It can't be done.

8. Philip's thoughts about how to meet this great need were pessimistic, analytical, and pragmatic, completely materialistic and earthbound.

9. One of the supreme essentials of leadership is a sense of vision, why? Is a sense of vision important for Greater Pleasant Branch?

10. Philip was so obsessed with this temporal predicament that he was oblivious to the transcendental possibilities of Jesus' power.

11. Philip was convinced that the feeding of the multitude simply could not be done. The limitless supernatural power of Christ had completely escaped his thinking.

12. Everything seemed impossible to Philip. He needed to set aside his materialistic, pragmatic, common-sense concerns and learn to lay hold to the supernatural power of faith.

#### C. The Visit of the Greeks-Review pages 128-130

1. John chapter 12 gives us another insight into Philip's character. Again, we see his over analytical temperament. He was concerned too much about methods and protocols. He lacked boldness and vision. It made him too timid and too apprehensive. And when he has another opportunity to step out in faith, he misses it again.

2. The author states that Philip was a by-the-book type of person.

3. Philip was not a decisive man. There was no precedent for introducing Gentiles to Jesus, so Philip enlisted Andrew's help before doing anything.

4. Philip seems to know in his heart that it would be wrong to turn the Greeks away, even if his head was obsessed with protocol and procedure.

#### D. The Upper Room Discourse-Review pages 130-133

1. Of all the foolish, impetuous, heartbreakingly ignorant statements that occasionally escaped the lips of the disciples, none was more disappointing than Philip's remark in the upper room, "Show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." - John 14:8.

2. How could Philip of all people, who had responded with such enthusiastic faith at the beginning, be making a request like this at the end? Where was his faith?

3. Philip's earthbound thinking, his materialism, his skepticism, his obsession with mundane details, his preoccupation with business details, and his small-mindedness had shut him off from a full apprehension of whose presence he had enjoyed.

4. Philip, like the other disciples, was a man of limited ability. He was a man of weak faith. He was a man of imperfect understanding. He was skeptical, analytical, pessimistic, reluctant and unsure. He wanted to go by the book all the time. Facts and figures filled his thoughts. So he was unable to grasp the big picture of Christ's divine

power, person and grace. He was slow to understand, slow to trust, and slow to see beyond the immediate circumstance. he still wanted more proof.

5. Many would have rejected Philip for the role of disciple, but Jesus would say in so many words, he is exactly what I am looking for. My strength is made perfect in weakness. I will make him a preacher. He will be one of the founders of the church. I will make him a ruler in the kingdom and give him an eternal reward in heaven. And I will write his name on one of the twelve foundation stones of the New Jerusalem.

6. Thankfully, the Lord uses people like Philip, lots of them.

7. Does I Corinthians 1:27-29 explain how the Lord was able to use people like Philip, lots of people like Philip ?

### III. Questions and Review- Chapter 6

1. What made Philip's encounter with Jesus Christ unique ? See page 122.

2. Why did the Greeks in John 12:20-21 seek out Philip? See page 128.

3. When you read John 6: 1-7 it appears that the motive for Jesus' inquiry of Philip was a desire to test the faith of Philip. According to the following passages of Scripture, what benefits are there to such episodes of testing?

- I Peter 1:3-4

- James 1: 2-8

- Psalm 139: 23

- I Timothy 3:10

4. Read John 14: 7-11 and answer the following question: What is it about the question Jesus posed to Philip that indicates faith is something a person must choose to act on ?

5. Describe a time in the life of Greater Pleasant Branch where preoccupation with details prevented the church leaders from seeing the big picture?

6. In what way did Jesus challenge Philip's comfort zone? From what comfort zone does the Lord desire to remove you ?

7. If knowledge of the Father is equated with knowledge of Jesus, what Spiritual Disciplines can believers engage in if they desire to truly know God ?

8. When do you feel least qualified to be recognized as a follower of Jesus Christ ?

9. When you feel qualified , what is going on in your life that prompts that confidence ?

10. Availability is more valuable than ability. Why was that the case with Philip ? Why is that the case for every believer ?