

Where's Your Chair?

St Bartholomew



Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.
Psalm 86:11

Praising:

Beneath the shading fig tree
Bartholomew you knew,
and saw him, Lord, as guileless,
as one to follow you.
Like him may we now follow in
every word and deed,
and serve you in obedience, and
from our sins be freed.

Reading:

John 1:43-51
Jesus sees a man's value

The names Bartholomew and Nathanael are interchangeable. Initially Bartholomew is dismissive of Philip's claim that the one foreseen and foretold by ancient scripture is finally among them. Bartholomew's doubt is grounded in his low opinion of Jesus' hometown Nazareth. Yet Bartholomew is willing to put his scepticism to the test. It seems

the moment Jesus clapped eyes on Bartholomew sitting under the fig tree, he saw through to the man's honesty and faithfulness to God. When Jesus explains this, Bartholomew's response to Jesus' power and insight is instant. What Jacob saw in vision (the ladder with angels ascending to and descending from heaven) is now a reality in Jesus. The title Son of Man is used to designate a messenger from heaven who will make God known and who will act as final judge.

Listening:

Praying:

We recognise Lord our prejudices and presumptions

- about where people come from, their race, their culture, the way they look
- about what people think, their attitudes, their values, the way they vote or worship
- about why people do and say things, their motivation, their heart, the way they act

Father: I ask for the eyes of Jesus to see past what's on the surface of people to their potential, to their possibility, to the good work begun in them by the power of your Spirit. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 24 August 2016