

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

MARCH 17, 2022

Today we look at the disciple Philip. He is not to be confused with Philip, the Evangelist, who we find in the Book of Acts meeting with the Ethiopian on the Road to Gaza. There are also two other men named Philip who are the sons of King Herod the Great.

Philip was from Bethsaida, the same area as Peter and Andrew. It was a town by the Sea of Galilee (John 1:44). This detail is important because when Jesus and the disciples came to Jerusalem, some Greek men from Bethsaida wanted to see Jesus. They came to Philip (John 12:21). It is possible that they knew him personally, or perhaps he spoke Greek better than the other disciples.

It was Philip who found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

It is to Philip that Jesus turns with the question about how to feed the multitude. Philip responded that it would take half a year’s wages to buy enough bread to feed them.

Some scholars believe that Philip was originally a disciple of John the Baptist. He was one of the disciples who were closest to Jesus. He spent three years living with Him, witnessing his miracles, and hearing his teachings.

As Jesus was teaching his disciples about his last days, Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered, “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. I am in the Father and the Father is in Me” (John 14:6-10).

Church tradition holds that Philip preached the gospel in Scythia (central Eurasia), Syria, and Turkey. Most of the earliest traditions seem to point to him being martyred in Hierapolis, but there are confusing accounts of the martyrdom. In a letter to Pope Victor, Polycrates of Ephesus said, “I speak of Philip, one of the twelve apostles, who is laid to rest at Hierapolis.

*Thank You, Lord, for people of faith who minister under great difficulty. Amen.*