

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Free. . .

...to act with Goodness – John 1:43-51

Discussion Points

February 7, 2021

Read/Reflect

1. Read John 1:43-51. Characterize the conversations and exchanges that take place between Phillip and Nathanael, and between Nathanael and Jesus.
2. Refer to the story in Genesis 32:22-32 and note the connections between the Jacob story and Nathanael's story. Read John 1:51. What do you imagine Jesus meant in promising this to Nathanael?

Explore

3. How would you characterize "goodness?" How might such a virtue change when it is achieved only through the acts of God?
4. How would you characterize goodness in these biblical characters?

<input type="checkbox"/> Barnabas (Acts 11:24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel (Dan.6:1-5)
<input type="checkbox"/> Samuel (I Sam.3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Joseph (Gen. 50:15-21)
<input type="checkbox"/> David (I Sam.13:14)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruth & Boaz (Ruth)
5. If we are not saved by our good works (Ephesians 2:8-9), how are we to exercise the virtue of goodness?
6. How do you think of yourself with respect to goodness? Why?

<input type="checkbox"/> "basically good."	<input type="checkbox"/> "God's goodness in me"
<input type="checkbox"/> "no good."	<input type="checkbox"/> "trying to be good"
7. How can you grow in goodness?

<input type="checkbox"/> Pray for a clean heart (Ps.51:10)	<input type="checkbox"/> Train my thoughts (Phil.4:8,9)
<input type="checkbox"/> Live free of condemnation (Rom.7:25-8:2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Act from God's mercy (Titus 3:1-8)

Pray

- ✝ ...a prayer of rejoicing in God's goodness: his righteousness, his mercy, and his loving-kindness.
- ✝ ...a prayer of confession, acknowledging the good we want to do we don't do (Romans 7:18-24).
- ✝ ...a prayer for the Holy Spirit to ripen the fruit of goodness in you.

