

* Prayers Anchored in the
Gospel of John

Thursday, Day 25

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Online Book of Prayer)

 **The Collect**
Collecting your thoughts so you can focus
on God.

John 1:38-52 NIV

38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

39 “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

40 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 Philip 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.”

 **Scripture**

John 1:47-51 (NIV)

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

⁴⁸ “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰ Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

 **Scripture**

* This is a time when you will want to meditate on some part of the passage throughout the day. You might choose to memorize a verse, or imagine that you are one of the characters in the passage. Let the passage sink deep into your soul in some way.

Nathanael says “How do you know me? ” I know that I don’t always understand myself, or why I do the things that I do. So I resonate with this question.

“I saw you” says Jesus. I don’t want to be seen sometimes. I am not proud of things I have done at times. I would be curious like Nathanael but also extremely intimidated. (Ben Reed)

* **Meditation**

Nathanael is described as one in whom there is nothing false. 1:47 This does not mean that he has no wrong beliefs, as the word false in the NIV might suggest. Rather, the word dolos suggests a more fundamental internal disposition in which there is no deceit. He is honest and clear sighted, his eye is single, he has a clear conscience. He is the sort who seeks God before all else. No one is without falseness within but there are those who nevertheless desire truth before anything. Most of us must be pruned for years before we approach such single hearted desire for God. Mercifully God accepts us before we even begin to desire him, and by his grace he undertakes the purging of all our duplicity and deceitfulness.

(IVP Commentary “John” by Whitacre)

 **Meditation**

“Heaven has been opened, but there is no need for us to ascend because the Son of Man has come down to us. The one Isaiah saw (Is 6:1-5) has come into our midst! Jesus, not heaven, is the focal point of revelation. The desire of the mystics has been fulfilled.”

(IVP commentary “John” by Rodney Whitacre)

 **Meditation**

John 20:29 NIV Then Jesus told him, “Because you **have seen** me, you **have believed**; **blessed** are those **who have not seen** and yet have believed.”

*Meditation

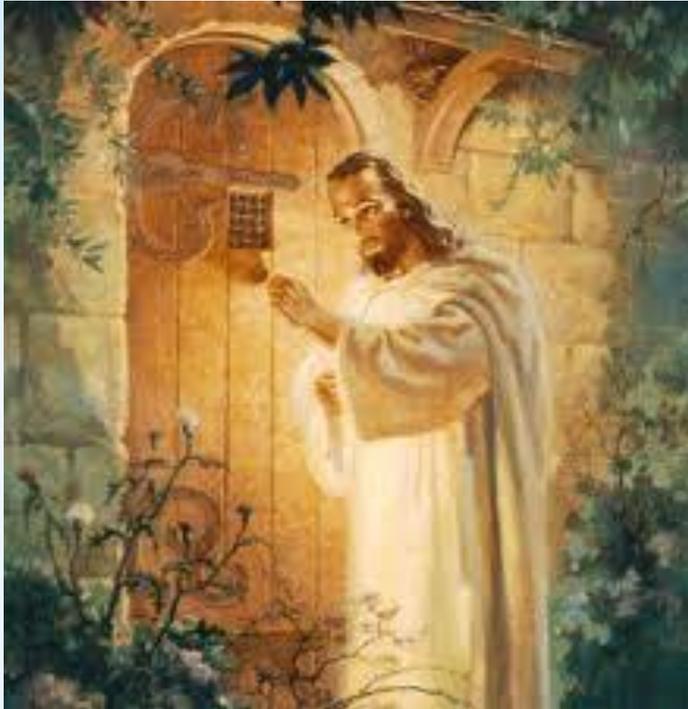
Psalm 139:12-14(NIV)

*12 even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

*13 For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*

 **Response**



In quiet prayer, let's reflect on if there is something you are trying to hide from Jesus.

Open your hands wide if you are able as an act of surrender.

*Prayer



Lord Jesus

I am afraid sometimes
to be known by you.
Give me discernment
and wisdom when this
fear rises up and grace
to meet me when I am
afraid.

(Ben Reed)

*Prayer

Ephesians 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the
heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing
in Christ.

* Blessing