

The Beginning Great Things

John 1:45-50 (NKJV)

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶ And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”

⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

⁴⁹ Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

Harper’s Bible Dictionary:

Nazareth was an insignificant agricultural village not far from a major trade route to Egypt, the *Via Maris*. It is not mentioned in the OT, Josephus, or rabbinic writings.

Nazareth was a place that had been passed by, but not noticed.

It was a very insignificant place

It was interesting, that Jesus chose this insignificant location, to begin building his team of disciples here.

I believe that God was trying to help us realize something here.

- It doesn’t matter where you begin, only where you end up.
- One famous playwright stated, “Entrances of temporary, but exits are eternal.”

- This outpouring of God's Spirit began in a humble upper room in Jerusalem, but the ending is going to be greater than the beginning!
- This is the beginning of great things
 - In the lives of us as individuals
 - And in Harvest Church

Luke 4:16-30 (NKJV)

¹⁶ So **He came to Nazareth**, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ **"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,**
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

¹⁹ **To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."**

²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave *it* back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, **"Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."**
²² So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

²⁸ So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, ²⁹ and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. ³⁰ Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

Jesus let those at Nazareth know, this I have great things in store for this city!

Their understanding of who Jesus really was, was changed at Nazareth!

Matthew 13:58 (NKJV)

⁵⁸ Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

The only thing that stopped Jesus doing a work in the lives of the people of Nazareth was their lack of faith!

I have come to preach faith to you tonight...

God can do anything!