

January 17th, 2021
Second Sunday After the Epiphany
Readings

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 1:43-51 (NIV)

(10:37)

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 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.” “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” 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.”

MESSAGE READING: ECCLESIASTES 12:1-14 (NIV)

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,
before the days of trouble come and the years approach when
you will say, “I find no pleasure in them” —before the sun and the
light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds
return after the rain; when the keepers of the house tremble, and
the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are
few, and those looking through the windows grow dim; when the
doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades;
when people rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs
grow faint;
when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets;
when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags itself
along and desire no longer is stirred. Then people go to their
eternal home and mourners go about the streets. Remember him

—before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Everything is meaningless!” Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true. The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd. Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.