

April 25, 2020-Saturday, Second Week of Easter

'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' –Nathanael's question to Philip (John 1:45)

Nathanael of Cana

Very little is known about Nathanael of Cana, who is fishing with the other disciples when the risen Christ appears.

The Gospel of John says that he was a good friend of the Apostle Philip. Originally skeptical about Jesus, Nathanael soon became a devoted disciple.

Some scholars believe he is St. Bartholomew, whose name (not Nathanael's) is mentioned in the list of apostles that is found in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:13).

Tradition says that after the death and resurrection of Jesus, Nathanael/Bartholomew preached in Ethiopia, India, Persia and Armenia, where he was flayed and beheaded for his faith.

His feast day is August 24.

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*Jesus said to Thomas, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name. (John 20:29-31)*

A most dramatic thing happens at the end of this week's Gospel reading.

Jesus is talking to Thomas and, suddenly, Jesus is talking to me.

He really is. Jesus says to Thomas, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are *they* who have not seen...and have believed."

His last words in the Gospel of John are a blessing upon me.

Then, as if that isn't enough, the Gospel writer says: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that *you* may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief *you* may have life in his name."

That's me he's referring to. All these things were written down to help *me* believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

Imagine. Jesus had me in mind all along.

Spend some quiet time with the Lord