

Devotion for October 11, 2017

When is the last time you invited someone to join you, at your church, for a worship service? Whether that was yesterday, or last month, or sad, “Never,” let’s learn something to two brother, Philip and Nathanael.

As Jesus was gathering disciples, he went and found Philip and told him, “Follow me.” The very next thing that the Bible tells us about Philip is that he went to find his brother Nathanael. Philip was excited to share Jesus with his brother, and the exciting news that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Savior.

Philip’s excitement was met with a cold response from Nathanael. Nathanael was impressed by nor was he interested in meeting Jesus of Nazareth. He scoffed at Philip’s invitation, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

When’s the last time you invited someone to join you for a worship service? That’s an important invitation, because it’s an invitation to see Jesus, the Savior of the world, and the only way to heaven.

Do you ever worry, though, and wonder, “If I talk to my [brother, dad, wife, sister] about coming to hear God’s saving truth, they won’t like it, and it will be awkward, and I won’t know what to say.”

Try Philip’s approach. First, know what you’re inviting a person to do. Why is worship at a Christian church important? “Because you’re supposed to,” is a terrible answer. But you might point out that God’s truth will be revealed to them, and they’ll learn something about how to show love for God in their lives, and love for people. They’ll meet a family of believers who will be eager to encourage and welcome them. They will grow in their relationship with God. That’s just a summary of what you are inviting them to share with you.

And if you get an uninterested response like Philip did, don’t feel pressure that it’s your job to somehow convince them. It’s not. That’s the Holy Spirit’s job, and so you can confidently say, like Philip, “Come and see.” “Come and see for yourself what I’m talking about. Come and hear God’s Word for yourself. Come and see all the people who take time out of their day to gather together for the sole purpose of worshipping God.”