

AN EYE FOR PROBLEMS—Philip

Immature eyes only see why something *can't* be done. Why?

- **They may be influenced by pessimistic peers**

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. (John 1:43-46)

- **They may focus only on the problem**

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" (John 6:5-7)

- **They may not trust their eyes or the evidence**

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. (John 14:8-12)

- **Jesus says to Philip and to us, "FOLLOW ME"**

QUOTES OF NOTE

Those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music. (Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher)

We tend to think of our spiritual journey as a God-directed adventure until something goes seriously wrong or until certain problems persist past the time we give God to take them away. Then we think about solving the problems more than about finding God in the midst of them.... Dark valleys...do not primarily represent problems to be solved, but are rather opportunities for spiritual companionship, to experience a kind of relating that is better and different from any we've known before. (Larry Crabb, *The Safest Place on Earth*)

Although faith may produce miracles, miracles do not necessarily produce faith.... They attracted crowds and applause, yes, but rarely encouraged repentance and long-term faith. [Jesus] was bringing a hard message of obedience and sacrifice, not a sideshow for gawkers and sensation-seekers. (Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*)

"We are a shadow and a shining," we!
 One moment nothing seems but what we see,
 Nor ought to rule but common circumstance—
 Nought is to seek but praise, to shun but chance;
 A moment more, and God is all in all,
 And not a sparrow from its nest can fall
 But from the ground its chirp goes up into his hall.
 (George MacDonald, *The Diary of an Old Soul*)