

# Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

**Pastor: Steve Bishop**

## **October 30, 2016 – It's Personal**

My goal is for anyone who isn't a Christian to be one and for You to understand what it takes to follow Christ.

Obstacles – for some it's just not important.

We ask why don't you become a Christian. They say who don't you become an astronaut.

All People who are not Christians...they have a reason...

Illustration: My brother, Jeff, and I met with our Uncle Robert who was on his death bed.

1. Why is there so much suffering in the world – 795 million are hungry
2. Why are there bad Christians
3. Parents raised him differently – to question and understand
4. Why are there so many other religions in the world – IS Jesus really the only way?
5. Cain and Abel's wives – where did they come from? Why weren't there any dinosaurs on the Ark? If there is a God, explain evolution?

Finally, we just said that God loves you, and that was enough.

Observation: Most people don't become Christians because all the questions get answered. The questions shrink, they don't matter now.

Christianity is not about facts, it's Personal.

You've already experienced setting aside the facts in life...

Marriage – Shane Shover was not getting married, ever...

1. Freedom – do what I want, when I want
2. Commitment – buyer's remorse (what if I meet...at the reception, like the wedding planner.
3. Money – I can't afford to do what I want to do
4. Parent's marriage ???

Guys you didn't set down and work through a list, you just fell in love and all of a sudden the freedom, commitment, money, marriage issues just went away.

Jesus is adding to his disciples in John 1

**John 1: 43-51**

**43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, Follow me.**

**44 Philip like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.**

**45 Philip found Nathaniel 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.”** The Jews had been waiting for the savior for hundreds of years.

**46 Nazareth! Can anything good come from there? Nathaniel asked.**

Nazareth was the often spoken of in jokes – or if you needed a dentist and someone said (he works out of a van on the boat ramp at Duck Cove) Nazareth was Nathaniel’s obstacle – Philip could have spent all day debating Nazareth instead Philip said, come and see.

***Come and see, said Philip.***

**47 When Jesus saw Nathaniel approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”** Here is a true Israelite, nothing false – this guy will not pretend, if he has questions, he will ask them. Here is a guy who can’t be tricked into something, too smart.

**48 How do you know me? Nathaniel asked.** A minute ago Jesus was a category.

***Jesus answered, I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.***

This is where Nathaniel went to pray, most likely at his house, a private place, this was a common phrase to mean private payer. Like...quiet time at camp as a kid, right before sports. Many believe Nathaniel was praying about the Messiah at that time.

**49 Then Nathaniel declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the king of Israel.”** Nathaniel didn’t say what about Nazareth, that shrunk in comparison to Jesus knowing him personally.

Most likely, he never figured the Nazareth thing out. He followed Jesus with his questions.

When asked what is the most important commandment:

**Matthew 22**, the Pharisees were trying to Jesus.

Jesus said love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. There is an order to this...

I want to understand God with all my mind before I love him with all my heart.

What is your obstacle today? Christians (your job is to get past the obstacles in the people around you), like Paul.

Your heavenly father want you to KNOW him before he answers all your questions.

Don't you want people to Love you before they know all the answers to the questions about your life.

Challenge: Pray Heavenly Father, I want to know you more than I want to know the answers to my questions. God can't wait to answer that prayer.

***50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under a fig tree. You will see greater things than that." He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see haven open and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."***