



St. Bartholomew

August 24

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Biblical figure

The day was hot, and a man was resting under the shade of a fig tree, lost in his thoughts.

Someone called out the man's name: "Bartholomew!" Startled, Bartholomew saw that it was his friend Philip calling.

"We have found Him!" Philip exclaimed. With growing excitement, Philip explained that he had found the man that Moses and the prophets had promised would come to save the Jewish people. The man's name was Jesus, and He was from Nazareth.

Bartholomew snorted and asked, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Nazareth was a little village in the middle of nowhere. Surely nobody important could come from Nazareth.

All that Philip said in response was, "Come and see."

And so Bartholomew rose and followed his friend, who led him to the man named Jesus. When Jesus saw Bartholomew coming, He declared, "Here is a true Israelite." And Jesus explained that Bartholomew was an honest man: there was no trickery or falsehood in him.

Bartholomew was amazed. It was as if Jesus had just looked into his heart. "How do you know me?" he asked.

"Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree," Jesus responded.

Bartholomew felt even greater astonishment. How could Jesus have known that he had been under a fig tree? It was a miracle! Bartholomew realized that everything that Philip had said about Jesus was true. He exclaimed that Jesus was the Son of God and the King of Israel.

Jesus gently smiled at Bartholomew. "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this."

And Bartholomew did.

He became one of Jesus' Twelve Apostles. He saw Jesus heal the blind, the lame, and the deaf. He saw Jesus raise Lazarus from his tomb. He saw Jesus risen from the dead.

Bartholomew preached the Good News that Jesus rose from the dead, and he became a glorious martyr for the Master whom he loved.

St. Bartholomew, help me to listen to those who call me to Jesus!