

## GOSPEL PEARLS

# Obstacles or means?

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*The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (John 1: 43-51)*

To those who Jesus calls to follow Him, our Lord makes no promises of human glory. Nor does He proclaim lofty doctrines or philosophies. Jesus only asks those He calls to verify the facts and listen to his Word. Jesus needs witnesses. If we are not consistent and credible witnesses, then we are only the cause of dismay, confusion and scandal. May we not become obstacles but means for spreading the Gospel.