

Lesson 6 Can Anything Good Come Out of Nazareth? (John 1:46)



Yes, it can! If something good came out of Nazareth, then God can bring good out of your life as well. He loves to begin His work in places where no one expects anything. Your humility, your prayers, and your quiet daily choices to do what is right — these are the things God uses to change the world around you. Nazareth became the starting point of Salvation; your heart can become the starting point of God's work in someone else's life. What seems small to you is great in the hands of God.

Lesson Goal

To show that God chose simple and unnoticed Nazareth as the place where Christ grew up, revealing an important truth:

God often does His greatest work through small towns, ordinary people, and humble circumstances, because true greatness comes not from the place, but from God's purpose.

Introduction

Imagine a small town almost no one talks about. There are no palaces, universities, shopping centers, or stadiums. At first glance, nothing big is supposed to happen there — no great leaders, no major events, no significant changes.

Nazareth was exactly such a town. In Scripture, many people had the same reaction: **“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:46, NKJV).**

But the Savior of the world came from there. We might have expected the Messiah to come from:

- **Jerusalem** — the spiritual center of Israel,
- **Athens** — the center of philosophy,
- **Rome** — the center of power and influence.

But God values things differently. He shows us: **“I can bring greatness out of what seems small. I can honor what others despise. I choose differently than the world chooses.”**

Today we will explore why people doubted Nazareth, what Scripture says about it, and what God wants to teach us — young people who also wonder: **“Can something great come out of my life?”**

Key Texts

John 1:46 (NKJV) “And Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’”

Luke 1:26–27 (NKJV) “Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin... the virgin’s name was Mary.”

1 Corinthians 1:27 (NKJV) “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise...”

Historical and Geographical Background

1. Nazareth — a small and unnoticed town

In the days of the New Testament, Nazareth was a tiny village in Galilee with an estimated population of only 300–400 people. It is not mentioned in the Old Testament, had no important rulers, no famous events, and was not located on a major military route.

For many Jews, Nazareth was too provincial to imagine that the Messiah could come from there. That is why Nathanael asked: “**Can anything good come out of Nazareth?**”

2. Nazareth near the Jezreel Valley — a crossroads of nations

Nazareth was not located on a major international highway, but it was only a few kilometers from the **Jezreel Valley**, where the famous **Via Maris** ran — the “Way of the Sea,” connecting Egypt, Israel, Syria, and Mesopotamia.

Traveling this route were:

- Roman soldiers,
- caravans of merchants,
- travelers from many nations,
- messengers and diplomats.

Growing up in Nazareth, Jesus saw people of many cultures.

This was part of God’s preparation — **so that He would understand the diversity of human life and bring salvation “to the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6).**

3. Galilee — a “less respected” region Many Jews viewed Galilee as spiritually inferior to Judea. They said: “**Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.**” (John 7:52, NKJV) Why?

- Mixed population,
- Nearness to Gentile regions,
- Many cultural influences,
- Distance from Jerusalem, the religious center. Nazareth inherited this entire reputation.

4. Nazareth and prophetic fulfillment

Matthew 2:23 says: “**He shall be called a Nazarene.**”

Although the exact phrase is not found in the Old Testament, its meaning is:

- The Messiah would come from a humble, despised place.
- People would see Him as ordinary.
- He would follow the path of humility.

This is in harmony with Isaiah’s prophecy: “**He is despised and rejected by men**” (**Isaiah 53:3**).

Main Content

1. Why did Nathanael doubt? Three types of reasons

Positive reasons

- **Sincere questioning** People want to understand how God can work through humble circumstances.
 Ask questions to seek truth, not to argue.
- **Hunger for truth** The question reflects a genuine search for real goodness.
 If you seek God, He will reveal Himself.
- **Desire to verify** Some doubt not out of pride but to be sure of the truth.
 Don’t be afraid to check — just be ready to accept the truth.

Negative reasons

- **Prejudice** Nazareth seemed “too small” for anything great.
 Avoid judging people or places — God can use anyone.
- **Limiting God** People often confine God to their own expectations.
 Never put God in a box — He is far greater than your ideas.
- **Mockery and unbelief** Sometimes the question is asked with sarcasm.
 Guard your heart from cynicism — it blocks spiritual insight.

Neutral / mixed reasons

- **Curiosity** People wanted to know: Why Nazareth?
 Cultivate healthy curiosity toward Scripture.

- **Comparison** People expected greatness from “famous places.” Remember: God’s standards are different.
- **Testing traditions** Some questioned commonly accepted opinions. Don’t follow the crowd — follow God’s Word.

2. Nazareth shows God’s principle: God lifts up the small

1 Corinthians 1:27 teaches that God chooses what seems weak or insignificant to reveal His glory.

This means:

- He does not need “perfect conditions.”
- He does not require great resources.
- He is not impressed by status or prestige.
- **He seeks an open and humble heart.**

Examples: David — a shepherd → became king. Gideon — the youngest in his family → became a deliverer. Mary — a girl from Nazareth → became the mother of the Savior.

3. What does God say to young people through Nazareth?

1) Your origin does not determine your destiny. You may come from a small town, simple family, or unnoticed school — but God can still raise you up.

2) God works through ordinary circumstances. Your school, church, neighborhood, and home can become your “Nazareth” — the place where God is shaping you.

3) God values faithfulness above popularity. The world values followers, money, and status. God values a sincere heart.

Practical Applications

- ◆ **Don’t underestimate your small beginnings.** God often starts His greatest works quietly. Write down small blessings — they lead to your calling.
- ◆ **God can use the place where you are right now.** Your school, your street, your church — this is your Nazareth. Use every situation as a chance to grow and serve.

- ◆ **Don't judge others by where they come from.** Nazareth teaches that great people often come from humble places.  Look at the heart, not the status.
- ◆ **Seek truth sincerely, not sarcastically.** Philip said to Nathanael, “Come and see.”  Before you judge — learn, search, and pray.

Discussion Questions

1. Why was Nazareth a “problem” for many Jews?
2. What modern stereotypes resemble the attitude toward Nazareth?
3. Why does God often choose small and weak things?
4. How does your life look similar to the story of Nazareth?
5. How do you react when people doubt your potential?
6. What does Philip’s invitation “Come and see” mean for you?

Practical Homework

During this week, pay attention to something “small” — a person, event, moment, or word — and write down how God might use it for your growth or as a reminder of His plan.