

Text: Come and See

Text: John 1:40-51

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John chapter 1.

I would like to begin, this morning with Vs 40. John chapter 1 verse 40.

(Read John 1:40-51)

(Prayer)

Now, we are in this portion of scripture dealing with (2C) the Method by which Jesus was known by his disciples. Or, how Jesus reveals himself to His disciples. Last Sunday, we looked at the calling of John and Andrew.

(2D) Today, we come to Andrew and Peter. Vs 40 says: "One of the two who heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found first his own brother, Simon, and said to him, we have found the Messiah."

To Andrew and John, Jesus was the Lamb of God.

To Andrew and Peter, Jesus was the Messiah.

Vs 42: "He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, you are Simon the son of John, you shall be called Cephas (which translated means Peter)".

You know, dear friends, that is thrilling. Did you notice what the text said? Vs. 42: "Jesus looked upon him." The idea is a continually gaze. He just gazed at Peter. And then he said without any introduction or anything: "Ah, you are Simon the son of John."

Now, dear friends, put yourself in Peter's shoes. Peter probable thought: "Hay! How did he know that?" "Your name is Simon. But, we are going to call you something else. You know that you are a very unstable person, Simon. You know that don't you? So, I am going to give you a name that will suggest something that I am going to do in your life. And that is: I am going to make you a rock. So, I am going to call you a stone (meaning Peter)."

The word “Simon” means “hearing.” And there he is, “hearing” for the first time that he is going to be changed into a stone.

Dear friends, please take hold of the application. Each of us, as we hear the Savior, is going to be changed. That is what Jesus does in our life.

And there is something else that Jesus does. *Jesus* He not only changes our life, but according to I Peter chapter 2, He makes each one of us a stone in a tremendous building. I hope you know this, my friends, because this is a wonderful principle. Jesus is building a tabernacle for himself. And we, as believers, are stones in this building. Stones that are alive with the presence of God. I love it. What a position we hold as believers in Christ. What a wonderful privilege and blessing to be part of the tabernacle of God.

(1E) Now, the first thing that hit me about this little encounter is: Andrew’s desire to tell others what was in his heart. This is great. So many people have commended about that, even in naming evangelism programs such as “Operation Andrew.”

But, the point is that Andrew, first of all, went to witness to his brother. “He found first his own brother.”

And secondly, Vs 42, Andrew brought his brother to Jesus. Man! I like that. I like the way it flows. The first thing he did was to find his brother. The second thing he did was to bring him to Jesus.

And dear friends, isn’t that the way it is suppose to happen? First we have to go out and find people. Then we have to bring them to Jesus. That is how the Kingdom of God grows. That is how the church grows. We need to bring people to Christ and His church.

(2E) Now, the second thing that really thrills me is the description of Peter in Vs. 42. Peter met a man who already knew his name and knew who his father was. Do you see the application? He knows our name, also. The Bible says that he knows every name that has ever existed. He knows all the hairs of your head. He has them all counted. And don't worry, guys, God can subtract. And for those of you who are wearing a wig, he can add, also. He knows it all. Everything. There isn't anything happening in our lives that God doesn't know about.

Oh, dear friends, I trust you know the savior who knows all about you. There isn't anything that you have ever done, that he doesn't know about. The Bible says that all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him with whom we have to deal. There isn't a sin that you have committed that is hid from the Lord. He knows everything you have ever done or thought *in your heart*

Now, that could be frightening if you don't respond to him, because he is, also, the judge. The one who knows all things, who you will face one day. The Bible teaches that we are going to face that judge who knows all about us.

So, you can't hid from Him. You can't come to him and try to make your self out to be something that you are not. Some folks want to prove to God and to others ~~who are talking to them~~ about ~~Jesus~~ that some ~~how~~ <sup>How</sup> they are all right. That I am much better than you think I am. Well, don't try to prove a thing. God already knows what you are. Just come as you are.

So, to Andrew and Peter, Jesus is the Messiah.

(3D) Now, let's come to Philip and Nathaniel. To these two men, Jesus is the prophesied one.

Philip said to Nathanael in Vs 45: “This is a fulfillment of prophecy.” And the reason he gave that message to Nathanael is clear from Vs 47. In Vs 47 Jesus clearly indicated that Nathanael was an O.T. believer. Therefore he was really tuned into prophecy. And so Philip’s approach to Nathanael was: “This is the one in whom the entire O.T. speaks.” And a guy like Nathanael was well versed in the O.T.

And so Philip, when he came to Nathanael, said: “Man, I have great news for you. That one that you have been reading about. That one that Moses talks about. That one to which all the prophets refer. Hay! Let me tell you, I have found him.”

And I can just hear Nathanael reply: “Sure you have.”

There are two things I would like to share with you at this point.

(1E) Number one, notice the invitation of Jesus to Philip in Vs 43.

And this invitation is so different than with the other disciples. In fact each man is called in a different manner. Andrew and John were disciples of John the Baptist. They heard John preach: “Behold! The lamb of God.” And then they started following Jesus.

In the second case Andrew goes and finds his brother and brings Peter to Jesus. The Third Case, Vs 43, the Bible says Jesus goes into Galilee and finds Philip and said to him: "FOLLOW ME."

And it is interesting that God puts into this passage a priority on his Word. Like John the Baptist preaching the Word. By the preaching of the cross, the Bible says, people are saved. *The Priority of the Word of God*

But, he also puts a priority on personal work. As Andrew <sup>g</sup> goes and finds his own brother. And each of us <sup>one called</sup> ~~must~~ <sup>thing</sup> do the same in sharing Jesus with ~~some~~ <sup>others</sup> one.

But, you know, it is encouraging to me to know that sometimes God passes over both of these methods and uses <sup>an</sup> ~~and~~ third method. And there are many examples of this. As a person picks up the Bible and starts to read the scripture and he finds Christ. Jesus found Philip and said, "FOLLOW ME."

Now, how do you suppose Jesus did that? You say, "well, he knew the disciples." Yes, but I believe there is a connection. WHY? Because in Vs 44, it says that Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of whom?....ANDREW AND PETER...

So, what do you suppose happened? Just put two and two together. Don't think that Vs 44 is a separated verse of no importance. It is very important. The point is that Andrew and Peter said to Jesus, "Hay! you know we have a friend who grew up in the same town as we did. His name is Philip. And man, let me tell you something. This guy is as materialist as they come. You will never get him to give up his old ways and follow you."

And so Jesus goes and finds him. You don't think they said that about Philip? Well, maybe not. But, I remind you that on one occasion when Jesus said, "Let's give these people bread," Philip said, "Listen, Jesus, I have already taken account of all the money on hand, and we just don't have enough money to buy bread for all these people. Send them home."

Have you ever meet someone in a group of Christians like that? "Listen, I know what the giving in this church is and it just can't be done."

OR, take the example of John 14. Philip said, "Look, Lord, we have had a little board meeting here. and I am the spokesmen for the group. And I want to tell you that we are really going to go all the way if you wil just show us the Father..."

“I mean, we are really going to believe. All you have to do is show us the Father. Just do that and man we will really follow you.”

And Jesus said back to Philip: “He who has seen me has seen the Father.”

Good old Philip. We have a friend of ours over there in Bethsaida. And let me tell you he is the questioning type. *He is Melancholic* We will be lucky to get him on our ball team.

So, Jesus goes and finds him. And what does he say? “FOLLOW ME.” Isn’t it interesting that when Jesus confronts people he doesn’t present 36 reasons why you should accept him;. He just says” FOLLOW ME.

Jesus didn’t say to Philip: “Hay, Philip! How would you like to have a fantastic experience” NO WAY! He just says: “FOLLOW ME.”

I think of Matthew, the tax collector. A guy stealing from the people. He is taxing them *more* more than he should. Jesus walks up to pay his tax, one day, as he was going into Capernaum. He sees Matthew collecting all those taxes and he says: “FOLLOW ME.” And what did Matthew do? He didn’t say to Jesus: “Hay! Wait a minute. You need to pay your taxes first. And if you wait a few minutes we will talk about it.” OH, NO! The Bible says: immediately, Matthew left his tax table and followed Jesus. Isn’t that great?

Jesus said, “Follow me,” and immediately Philip followed Him. *AND that is what Jesus wants us to do - In simple terms - Just Follow Him - Do You Know What The Xian Life Come down to?* It is interesting when you think about all of this. Andrew who found Jesus finds his brother,

Peter. Here Jesus finds Philip. And what does Philip do? He goes and finds Nathanael. What a wonderful chain reaction. *Love God Love Neighbors and Nations*

(2E) So, the second thing that I want you to see, here, is the instructions of Philip to Nathanael.

Philip says, Vs. 45: “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

I like the way Philip nails it down. Nathanael, who was an O.T. believer as we will see in a moment. Nathanael needed to have it nailed down. This is not a man that you have to convince about the coming of the Messiah. NO, WAY! Nathanael believed in the coming of the Messiah He believed that Moses and the prophets predicted that the Messiah would come. The only thing that you needed to tell Nathanael was: WHO IS IT.

And so Philip nails it down. "Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

But, being an O.T. believer Nathanael has a question: "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

Now, dear friends, he had a right to ask that question. WHY? Because Nazareth had a long history for being a haven for criminals and thrives of all kind. By the way that is true today, also, It is a bad place. When Shirley and I were in the Holy Land, we could not spend a night in Nazareth. It wasn't safe for Americans to be there after dark. It is a bad place.

So, Nathanael had a right to raise that question. He said, "Are you kidding me? Some one from Nazareth being the Messiah. No Way!"

And you know, you may have to do the same thing in your witnessing. You may have to say to someone: "God, has become a man and his name is Jesus. Now, what do you think about that? And they may respond: "are you kidding?"

So, what is the answer? What is the approach? The same as Philip in Vs 46: COME AND SEE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR QUESTIONS <sup>ARE CONCERNING</sup> ~~ARE ABOUT~~ Jesus, right now. But, listen, come and see. The greatest step is experience. Why don't you find out for yourself? Come and see.

When I was Pastor at the First Baptist Church in Taft, California, I taught a course on the N.T. at the local college. And in <sup>that</sup> college class room you do get all kinds of questions. College

students try to put you into a corner. Well, I will never forget this one young man. He was just trying his best to put down all the claims of Jesus. So, finally I said to him: "Why don't you just 'come and see.'" Next Sunday, he showed up in church. And we were studying in John chapter 3. That great text about Nicodemus being born again. He left church before I could talk with him. But, when he came to class, he was all smiles. He said, "Mr. Harrison, you were right. After church I went home and finished reading the gospel of John. And now I am a believer. Jesus is real. And I say: Praise God. Have you really taken a good look at Jesus? Have you experienced what He can really do in your life? In Vs 46, that invitation of Philip's is very powerful. COME AND SEE!

40 ~~(1)~~ Now, let's look at Nathanael.

Remember:

To Andrew and John, Jesus is the lamb of God.

To Andrew and Peter, Jesus is the Messiah

To Philip and Nathanael, Jesus is the prophesied one.

But, to Nathanael alone, Jesus is the Son of God,

Vs 47: "Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said to him: "Behold! An Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" There are two words in this verse that tell us that Nathaniel is an O.T. believer.

First, the word "indeed" It is the word for "true." He is a "true" Israelite: Meaning *true* "believer."

Second, the phrase, "in whom is no guile." The word "guile" means "to bate with a trap." There is no falsehood in Nathanael. He is not playing the role of an Israelite. He is the real thing.

Now, Nathanael knew that about himself. And that is why he is *startled* ~~started~~ and he says in Vs 48: "How do you know me?" He is saying: "How is it possible for you to have known me?" And



Jesus answers him by saying: "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

By the way, in the O.T. it says that the Jews when they are living in their glory and having peace with the Lord, every man is under his own vine and under his own fig tree.

The point is that this was a ritual of those Jews who really believed in the coming of the Messiah. Every day they would go out and set under a fig tree and pray and mediate on the coming of the Messiah. And I believe that is what the Word of God is referring to here in Vs 48.

Nathanael, an O.T. believer, looking forward day after day after day to the coming of the Messiah. And Jesus being God knew that.

Here was an O.T. <sup>Believer</sup> Jesus who knew what the Word of God said. And all he needed was to have someone identify the Messiah. And how does Jesus identify himself? How did He show himself to Nathanael? By telling him something that he knew he couldn't possibly have known. He was revealing his deity. And Nathanael knew who he was.

In Vs 49, we have a tremendous profession of faith. "Nathanael answered him, Rabbi, you are the son of God." Only 7 times will you read that in the gospel of John. And here is one of them: "You are the son of God."

And he also said: "You are the King of Israel." What a tremendous expression of faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Nathanael is saying two things:

One, I know who you are. You are God.

And two, I know what you are going to do in this world. You are going to set up a kingdom and rule as King of Kings and Lord and Lords. WOW! What a profession of faith.

(2E) Then, in Vs 50 and 51, notice the promise that Jesus gave to Nathanael. Jesus commends Nathanael for his belief. And he said: "because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? Is that all it took to get you to believe, Nathanael? Hay, listen. I am going to show you more things than you have ever dreamed about."

Now, Vs. 51, people often wander about this verse. It says: "And Jesus said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, you shall see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." Now, what in the world is Jesus talking about?

Well, the symbolism is Jacob's ladder from the O.T. The vision that Jacob had. Do you remember that vision? Jacob in his vision saw a ladder that was set up from earth to heaven. And angels were ascending and descending on that ladder. Do you understand?

Jesus is saying: I AM THAT LADDER. The angels of God are going to ascend and descend on me. I am the ladder. In other words, I am the way to heaven. That is why Jesus could say; "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the father, but through or by means of me." And that is the point. Oh, listen, dear friends, I personally believe that this is going to be literally fulfilled. And it was not simply just an illustration of what happened in the O.T.

I believe what Jesus was talking about was the hope that was in Nathanael's heart. He is talking about the return of the King in power and great glory with all his Holy Angels with him. Heaven will open, says the Bible, and the Messiah comes forth as King. That is the fulfillment of Vs 51.

And how it must have rejoiced the heart of Nathanael. He is looking for the coming Messiah. The coming King that was promised. And Jesus is saying, "Nathanael, I want you to know that you are going to see it."

Oh, listen, dear friends, it doesn't have to be in his life time. But he was going to see it alright.

What an illustration. Jesus is the ladder that leads to heaven. He is the only ladder. And if you are ~~going~~ <sup>coming</sup> to God by means of that ladder, Jesus Christ, you too, like Nathanael, will see the fulfillment of that tremendous prophecy. "For the lord, himself, will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the lord in the air. And we shall all be with the Lord." *Praise God*

Dear friends, I just gave you 5 wonderful principles that you can apply to your life.

- (1) God knows all about us. We cannot hid from Him.
- (2) God is building a great tabernacle. And all believers are stones in that building.
- (3) God wants us to witness and bring people to Christ and his church.
- (4) And Jesus wants all believers to follow him in simple faith.
- (5) And one day we will see the fulfillment of God's great prophecies.

It will be a wonderful day. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. It is not a question of will you. It is a question of when will you. For if you do not confess him as Lord in this earthly life, then one day when you stand before the judgment seat of God, you will confess him as savior. But then it will be to late. For Jesus will say, "Depart from me. For I never knew you. So, it is important that you receive Jesus as your savior today.

Did you Get that? God it! Good! Great!

Let's close in Prayer