

COME AND SEE

John 1:35-51 / Yeshua §28

Next Week: John 2:1-12 / §§ 29-30

At some point in each one of our lives we are called to respond to the life changing invitation to “follow Jesus”. This is the beginning, middle and end of what we call discipleship. For some of us it came by an invitation from our parents, for some it came from a friend, and for some it came through a direct call from Jesus himself. In our section today we will see Jesus begins collecting his disciples in preparation for his Messianic ministry. We will see each disciple who ends up with Jesus, does so in a unique way and has a singularly unique story about their first couple days with this Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. However, despite the variety of invitations, the heart of what they have been invited into is all the same. They are to “come and see”. To be partakers in what this Jesus is doing.

Part 1.	The Coming of the King
Part 2.	The Authentication of the King
→	Come and See
Part 3.	The Controversy over the King
Part 4.	The Training of the Twelve by the King
Part 5.	The Opposition to the King:
Part 6.	The Preparation of the Disciples by the King
Part 7.	The Official Presentation of the King
Part 8.	The Preparation for the Death of the King
Part 9.	The Trial of the King:
Part 10.	The Death of the King
Part 11.	The Resurrection and the Ascension of the King
Part 12.	The Sequels

JOHN SENDS HIS DISCIPLES TO JESUS (JOHN 1:35-40)

Knowing the humble heart of John the Baptizer, it is no surprise to us when we read that John sends his disciples over to Jesus, when he walks by the next day. All the text records for us is that John says to his two disciples, “Behold, the Lamb of God” and they get up and follow Jesus. This is obviously not an accident. What this reveals is that John had intentionally prepared his disciples to be ready for the next time they would see the “lamb of God”, and that they had been prepared to leave John at a moments notice. This simply adds another layer onto the humility of John, as he recognized his ministry was all about moving people toward Jesus. It was not about the crowds he drew or the number of people who he had baptized or even those who were closest to him. His desires was to see his disciples, become true disciples of Jesus.

We are only given the name of one of these first two disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. We are left to speculate who this other disciple is, but we have good evidence to make the case that the other disciple was actually John, the author of this gospel. We will see throughout this gospel that John actually does not refer to himself by name, but rather he identified himself by a few terms like “the disciple Jesus loved” (13:23, 19:26, 20:2) or the “other disciple” (18:15, 20:2-5, 20:8).

These two men immediately turn and follow Jesus, and we have an interesting exchange. Jesus turns and see them and ask them what they are seeking. Their response reveals their intentions. They intend to follow this Rabbi Jesus and to stay wherever he is staying. This honorific title shows us they recognize Jesus as a teacher worth following. We can only assume this is through the discipleship of John, as well as what they experience when Jesus “sees” them. Jesus simply responds “come, and you will see”. The most simple and pure invitation to come and be a part of the ministry of the Messiah King, an invitation that is far more incredible than they could possibly imagine.

SIMON COMES TO JESUS (JOHN 1:41-42)

Andrew’s first act after following Jesus is to go and find his brother Simon Peter. Andrew is referred to as “Simon Peter’s brother” in vs. 40. This gives us a hint as to which of the two brothers would play a more prominent role in the mission of this Messiah King. Andrew tells Simon that “We have found the Messiah” and brings him directly to Jesus. Here we have Jesus looking at him, and his first words to this new disciple give Simon a new name, Peter. This renaming shows us the authority of Jesus over his disciples, but also that Jesus is giving Simon a new identity, one that will later be explained.

JESUS CALLS PHILIP (JOHN 1:43-44)

Day 4 of Jesus' ministry on this earth starts with a trip into Galilee, where Jesus "finds" Philip. This is the fourth disciple, but the first one that Jesus calls specifically. Philip, in a similar manner to Andrew, goes and finds Nathanael and testifies that Jesus is the one they have been waiting for. Nathanael is skeptical that anything good can come from Nazareth. It is a small little place of no importance, but Philip's response isn't to try to convince him, rather, Philip echos the same words Jesus spoke to the first two, "Come and See". Philip is confident that Nathanael will be convinced just by coming into the presence of Jesus, but no one expected the response that Jesus would have toward Nathanael.

NATHANAEL COMES TO JESUS (JOHN 1:45-51)

As Nathanael comes to see about this man from Nazareth, Jesus saw him and said "Behold, an Israelite in whom there is no deceit". Nathaniel knows his own character, and Jesus has identified an internal character trait of Nathanael that no stranger could know, and as Jesus reveals the miraculous way that he knew the heart of Nathanael, he moves from skeptical and surprised to belief and speaks a powerful confession that Jesus is a Rabbi, the Son of God, and the King of Israel. Jesus ends this section with a promise that there are greater miracles coming.

As we think about these first disciples almost two thousand years ago, we recognize that they are not so unlike us. We all have been "seen" by the Messiah, and invited to "come and see", and to participate in the ministry and mission of Jesus on this earth. It is incredible to think about how this one unknown man from an unknown place, followed by a odd group of followers, could radically impact the course of history and this world, and, more personally, has radically impacted our lives and our future.

Grace Family Needs, News and Notes

Kick the Dust Up! Free Country Line Dancing w/ BBQ Food Truck!

This Friday June 7th, 7-10pm.

If you want to be a part of the knitting and crocheting team

Contact Pollyanna @ 760-789-4926