

John 1.35-51

“What are you Seeking?”

Gospel of John last decade 1st C AD 90–100 > Last of 4 canonical Gospels

Canon = Rule of Faith > Books recognized as Scripture > Divine & human

Non-Can Gospels Thomas, Peter, Mary, Judas, Philip, Egyptians, Hebrews –

Counterfeits affirm the Real > 4 written by God and Man: FAITH Grows

Scholars Guestimate Mark 65–70 / Matthew 80–90 / Luke 80–90 AD

John: Decades Theolog reflection Jesus' Identity: Word became flesh / Gen 1

Relationship w Judaism: Jesus, John, Apostles > Church >> Gentile: The Jews

Contrasts – Divine / Human – Word becomes flesh

Glory / Suffering > ‘glorify me’ > CROSS – Worthy is Lamb who is Slain

God Sovereign – Knows/Plans All & People Responsible – Accountable

vs. 35-37 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus...

John the BAPTIST > RARE Among RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Willingly Releases TALENTED MEMBERS of Team > For GREATER Good

“JESUS must increase, I must decrease” > PUT into HARD PRACTICE

1. Persuasive Manner of Jesus / 2. Perfect Method of Jesus

1. Persuasive Manner of Jesus

a. Confronts – 1st words Jesus spoke in this Gospel

RED LETTER BIBLE – quotes of Jesus / BUT IT IS ALL FROM JESUS

Writers NT / APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST / Authoritative Messengers

Text – 1st Words & Actions in MINISTRY of JESUS / WORD made Flesh

See > Glorious, Eternal WORD > Intersects with NORMAL Human LIFE

ETERNAL GOD concerned about CONTEMPORARY NEEDS

v. 38 “What are you seeking?” To 2 Disciples of John Bapt. – left him for Jesus

TEXT > Those who ACTUALLY DID BELIEVE thru the Witness of John

WORDS of Jesus > COLD SHOWER / What do you want, Why are you here?

Question – Should make us think about our Motives and Intentions

HE Satisfies Deepest Need / Fulfills our Hopes / Brings Vision to Reality

There comes a moment when the children who have been playing at burglars hush suddenly...was that *real* footsteps in the hall? There comes a moment when people who have been dabbling in religion suddenly draw back. Supposing we *really* found him? We never meant it to come to *that*?
C.S. Lewis

b. Comforts NEXT WORDS OF JESUS ALSO SURPRISING

ONCE HE REALLY KNOWS WHO WE ARE – think He would Reject Us
MANY TIMES WE TRY AND HIDE OUR REAL SELVES FROM OTHERS
SCARY THING – GOD SEES US INSIDE & OUT / END from BEGINNING

v. 38 they said to him, “Rabbi where are you staying?” Busy? Talk Later??

RESPONSE – None of YOUR Business/ Get Lost / BEAT IT / May Expect!

NO! He kindly responds “*Come, and you will see*” Amazing Grace of God

East African Revival > Live in HOUSE with NO WALLS & NO CEILING

NO HIDING / Interference – No HYPOCRISY > FULLY Open to God & man

Come & See > Jesus gives TIME & SPACE CONSIDER Him & His CLAIMS

Lunch Thurs – Deacon ZGC / Elder Door Hope - 8th grade Daughter: Dedic

Family Devo / Church / Youth Gr / Classical Xtian School > THINKING!

PROBABLY > Jesus had just returned from 40 Days in Wilderness

v. 36 he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”

LAMB of GOD > Following Jesus: UNDERSTAND He is our SAVIOR

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.
John 6.37

Jesus Never TURNS AWAY a SINCERE SEEKER / Amazing Opportunity

ONLY ONES TURNED AWAY IN BIBLE – Religious Hypocrites / Pharisees

SELF-RIGHTEOUS do NOT NEED Jesus > Not Sick > NOT Need DOCTOR

Jesus “For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners” Matthew 9.13

Jesus sees the Sincerity of These INQUIRING DISCIPLES & says COME

c. Changes Reason for His Acceptance > Plans to Work His Purpose in Us

HE ACCEPTS US AS WE ARE / CAN MAKE US LIKE WE SHOULD BE

v. 42 Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

Bible – Change of Name = Change of Nature

When Jesus Sees Person – Sees in them their GREATEST POTENTIAL

ALMOST INSULTINGLY BLUNT ANALYSIS of Jesus....

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
John 15.5

If we Cannot Change OURSELVES > We cannot Change ANOTHER

Esp. SPOUSE, KIDS > but we can Confidently Bring them to Him who Can

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call.
Acts 2.39

SOMETIMES USED AS WRONG REASON FOR MARRIAGE

I know they're not good now, but I can change them / CONSTANT NAGGING

NOTICE GOD IS DOING THE CHANGING – perfect plan, unrivaled power

God can Raise the Dead / Bring Light out of Darkness / New Creation

PETER'S EXAMPLE / CHANGE – even with God at Work - IS A PROCESS

ONLY ONE TIME IN BIBLE JESUS CALLS SIMON BY HIS NEW NAME

I tell you, *Peter*, before the rooster crows today, you will deny 3 X's that you know me.
Luke 22.34 > SIMON ARE YOU REALLY THE ROCK?

PERSUASIVE MANNER OF JESUS – Confronts, Comforts, Changes

2. Perfect Method of Jesus

CHRISTIAN LIFE IS BOTH WHAT YOU DO AND WHO YOU ARE

Heresy > Invite Jesus in Heart – Never Taught in Bible, Genie in Bottle? Luck?

Bible > God CHOOSES Us – We do NOT Choose Him > Sovereign God

John 1.11 “as many as RECEIVED Him – Gift, by Grace, thru Faith

Relationship > Lord, Friend, Savior / Not Lord OF All, Not Lord AT All

a. Discipleship JESUS CALLED PEOPLE TO BE HIS FOLLOWERS

Jesus Time – “School” was Traveling, Outdoor Classroom of Life

STUDENTS HIRED TEACHER OF THEIR CHOICE TO MENTOR THEM

JESUS THE RADICAL > REVOLUTIONARY / Rabbi calls Students

v. 43 He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”

CALLING ALL FOLLOWERS TO INVITE MORE PEOPLE TO FOLLOW

v. 39 So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour

COMMAND: Make Disciples / GOING ASSUMED – always Go – Why Go?

NOT MEAN WE UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING / OR EVEN AGREE

ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD / WE'RE NOT IT

If you can comprehend it, it is not God. Augustine

Pagan Emperor once visited Jewish Rabbi Joshua ben Hananiah

Asked to see his god – Rabbi said that was IMPOSSIBLE – Emperor Persisted

Rabbi took him outside – told him to Stare at Midday Summer SUN

Emperor “This is impossible, the human eye cannot cope with the brilliance”

“If you cannot look at the sun, which God created, how much less can you behold the glory of God himself”
Rabbi Joshua ben Hananiah

b. Demanding > follow ALL DAY, EVERY DAY, for ALL of LIFE

v. 39 So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour

ALL DAY!! > Can you IMAGINE God making such a DEMAND on You?

Great MISUNDERSTANDING of Modern Christianity> God’s Time: Church

168 Hours WEEK > 1 HOUR belongs to God > SOMETIMES!!

BIBLICAL WRITERS had a DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24.1

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150.6

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Cor 10.31

Witnessing where we are KNOWN > 2 CONDITIONS before SUCCESS

1. VISIBLE CHANGE in our LIFE > a NEW PERSON in Christ

2. WILLING HUMILITY that puts JESUS FIRST before OURSELVES

c. Different FOUR DIFFERENT MEN / FOUR DIFFERENT METHODS

Jesus NEVER used a COOKIE-CUTTER to CARVE-OUT Disciples

Methods are many, principles are few; Methods always change, principles never do.
Warren Wiersbe

1) Andrew – Bring Family First / 1st follower of Jesus Identified by Name

v. 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

v. 40 1 of the 2 who heard John speak & followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

> Other probably AUTHOR / Apostle John > Great Humility

ANDREW IS THE CLASSIC WITNESS – bringing family & friends to Jesus

SOME LIVE IN SHADOW of a Parent, or Sibling, or Spouse

YOU ARE NOT INFERIOR TO GOD / NO PARTIALITY WITH GOD

GOD HAS NO FAVORITE CHILDREN / ALL SPECIAL TO HIM

Every time we Meet ANDREW in Gospel of John > Places himself SECOND

BROUGHT his Brother Simon to Jesus

vs. 41,42 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus.

John 6 > Great Hungry Crowd > Andrew BROUGHT boy with Lunch to Jesus

John 12 > GREEKS *"we would like to see Jesus."* > Andrew took THEM

KNEW that JESUS – Not himself – HELD the SOLUTION to ALL NEEDS

1 Reason folks come to Jesus / 85% come Someone they Know Invites them

2) Peter what Andrew lacks in Speaking Out / Peter more than makes up for
SIMON was kind of BROTHER WHO FINISHED ANDREW'S SENTENCES
YET HE WAS A FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE FORMING CHURCH

v. 41 FIRST THING ANDREW DID find his brother Simon, bring to Jesus

FIRST THING ANDREW DID – some who have never told their own family?!

Visit HOME – Easier to Preach to YOU than talk to MY Own Family!

DIRECTOR of Seminary in Almaty / 1 Day KZ Student's Dad Came to Visit – Student
Introduced his Dad as Muslim / J Film that Night / Father Believed!

NEXT DAY – Sem Christmas Party / Father sat with Big Smile / X of Xmas

3) Philip – one of less prominent disciples / little known about him

v. 43 He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

AMAZING PRIVILEGE > PERSONALLY CALLED by Jesus

YOU have been Personally Called / By the Spirit of Jesus

MOST who HEARD Jesus Call on Earth / REFUSED TO FOLLOW

PHILIP GOOD EXAMPLE OF CALLING OTHERS TO FOLLOW

v. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him

THOUGHT HE WOULD IMPRESS THE LEARNED NATHANAEL

v. 45 "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of
Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

BUT PHILIP WAS ALWAYS JUST OUT OF HIS DEPTH

v. 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

YOU IDIOT – Don't you Know Bible Prophecy / Messiah from Bethlehem

WHEN HE IS OUT OF HIS DEPTH / PHILIP WISE ENOUGH to ADMIT IT

Philip WINSOME & Welcoming Learned 'COME & SEE' style from Jesus

v. 46 "Come and see," said Philip. > Best Answer – Meet Jesus and Ask Him

Taste and see that the LORD is good

Psalm 34.8

Radio Preacher "Bible Answer Man" / RARE GIFT NOT ALL HAVE

WE ALL KNOW WHO HAS ALL THE ANSWERS

OUR TASK NOT TO HAVE ALL ANSWERS / introduce THE Answer Man
 WHEN WITNESSING WE'LL BE ASKED CHALLENGING QUESTIONS
 ANSWER – “I do not have the answer, but I will study Bible to try and find it”
 QUESTION – Will the answer bring you closer to a decision to follow?

Or is your question a barrier to keep you from considering Him?

4) Nathanael – THE QUESTIONING SCHOLAR

JESUS DOES NOT REJECT THE QUESTIONS / HE COMMENDS THEM

Hard Questions Provide Jesus a Chance to GIVE GOOD ANSWERS

JESUS > NATHANAEL as MAN OF INTEGRITY “True Israelite, not Jacob”

v. 47 “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”

PLAY on Words > JACOB was Embodiment of FALSEHOOD

Changed by God > PRINCE WITH GOD > ISRAEL

God CHANGES SINNERS into SERVANTS

v. 48 “when you were under the fig tree, I saw you” > CURIOUS PHRASE

Fig Tree – Symbol of Nation of Israel

Under Fig Tree– Few Moments before? Baby on Blanket? Place was tutored?

SOVEREIGN SAVIOR / NOTHING ESCAPES HIS DIVINE GAZE

John 1 > Called to KNOW JESUS / those Called MUST Make Him KNOWN

PERFECT METHOD OF JESUS / Different Kinds of Discipleship

4 Men / 4 Personalities / 4 Different Backgrounds

JESUS CALLED TO Each to DISCIPLESHIP FOUR DIFFERENT WAYS

REASON for DIVERSE CHURCHES / God wants none to perish / All Hear

Pentecostal Pastor’s GREAT ANSWER to ANTAGONISTIC QUESTION

“If Christianity REALLY is TRUE, why SO MANY Different Churches?”

THAT SHOWS HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU!

Wants you to FIND HIM > Everywhere, Everyplace, All the Time

Each potential disciple is an individual to be related to in a unique and distinct way. ‘Laws’ and ‘methods’ in personal evangelism may provide helpful tools, but the application must be individual in every case. Bruce Milne

DIFFERENT Styles all POINT to ONE SAVIOR > ONE Way to HEAVEN

vs. 49-51 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.”

LIKE JACOB / ISRAEL – opportunity to See Ladder from Heaven // BETHEL
 ANGELS OF GOD GO UP AND DOWN ONLY ON THE SON OF MAN
 HE is the ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN / path of Blessings
 Brings HEAVEN to EARTH and HE TAKES US from EARTH to HEAVEN
 ONLY Ladder of GRACE – to You in this ROOM, FAMILY, CITY, WORLD

"Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

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Psalm 90 // Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. // **Before the mountains were brought forth, // or ever you had formed the earth and the world, // from everlasting to everlasting you are God.** // You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!” // **For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.** // You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: // **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.** // For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. // **You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.** // For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. // **The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;** // yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. // **Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?** // So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. // **Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants!** // Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. // **Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.** // Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. // **Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!**