

Finders and Followers
Jesus Calls His First Disciples
John 1:35-42

Thought for the Day: Jesus invites us into fellowship with Himself that we might find Him as the Savior of our soul (Psalm 34:8), and then calls us to follow Him as the Lord of our life (John 10:27-28).

In John 1:29-34, John the Baptist formally introduces the Lord Jesus Christ to the world: "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (vs. 29). John's testimony was that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the Son of God. He is God's perfect provision for the forgiveness of our sins.

John 1:35-51 records the official launch of Jesus' public ministry, which began with the calling of His first disciples.

35 The next day...

- First day (John 1:19-28) – John the Baptist questioned by the religious leaders.
- Second day (John 1:29-34) – John formally introduced Jesus Christ.
- Third day (John 1:35-42) – Jesus called Andrew, John, and Peter to follow Him.
- Fourth day (John 1:43-51) – Jesus called Philip and Nathanael to follow Him.
- Fifth and sixth days – Jesus and His first disciples traveled to Cana in Galilee.
- Seventh day (John 2:1-12) – Jesus and His followers attended a wedding in Cana.

...again John was standing with two of his disciples...

- "Disciple" (*mathetes*) – literally, a learner, a student, a pupil.
 - Whenever you see the term "disciple" it implies that there is a teacher or rabbi.
 - "Disciple(s)" used 83 times in John—a very important concept in this Gospel.
- The Great Commission of the Church is to "make disciples" (Matthew 28:18-20).
 - Our Mission is to Glorify God and Advance His Kingdom by making disciples of Jesus Christ. This is why we exist!
 - If you have genuinely accepted Jesus as the Lord of your life and Savior of your soul, you are a disciple of Jesus Christ.
 - A disciple is one who follows another in order to learn from that person. A disciple imitates and puts into practice the instructions of the teacher.

36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

- "Lamb of God" (cp. vs. 29) means that Jesus Christ is God's perfect sacrifice sent to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world.
- He died as our Substitute; He took our place; He died the death we deserve.
- His death was *sufficient* to pay the penalty for every sin that ever was or ever will be committed, but it is *efficient* only for those who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- Christ's sacrifice was *provisional*, but each one of us must make it *personal* by accepting Him as our Lord and Savior.
- We need to imitate John: We need to point people to Jesus Christ and invite them to carefully consider Him.

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

- The *biblical* definition of success in ministry: They heard John and they followed Jesus!
- John's entire mission was to point people to Jesus; to connect people with Jesus. (3:30)

38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?"

- They wanted to confirm for themselves that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah.
- Have you ever taken the time to investigate and find out for yourself who Jesus is?

And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

- They wanted to spend time with Him, get to know Him, and find out who He was.
- They were fishing for an invitation and Jesus did not disappoint them!
- If you really want to know Jesus, you will make time to be with Him (Word and prayer).

39 He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

- "No one with a genuine desire to learn more of the Savior is ever turned away."
(*MacDonald, p. 1425*)
- Jesus always has time for you, and He longs to have fellowship with you!

40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

- The unnamed disciple was probably the Apostle John, the author of this Gospel.
- Like John the Baptist, he was more interested in focusing attention on Jesus.

41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ).

- "What an astounding announcement this was! For at least four thousand years, men had waited for the promised Christ, God's Anointed One." (*MacDonald, p. 1425*)
- A valuable lesson for sharing Christ: Keep it short and simple!
- "This teaches us that we do not have to be great preachers or clever speakers. We need only to tell men about the Lord Jesus in simple words, and God will take care of the rest."
(*MacDonald, p. 1425*)
- If God is working in a person's heart, you can't fail. If He's not working you can't succeed.
- Plant seeds and water seeds; the Holy Spirit will do the rest.

42 He brought him to Jesus.

- "Simon has received more publicity than his brother, but Andrew will doubtless share Peter's reward because it was Andrew who brought him to Jesus." (*MacDonald, p. 1425*)
- "The idea that we must somehow convince people about Jesus places too much importance on what we say and do. We must trust God's Spirit to work in a person and understand that our part may be little more than bringing that person into contact with Jesus." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)

Jesus looked at him and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

- Are you willing to let Jesus take control of your life and transform you into the kind of person He wants you to be?