

The Gospel of John: The Call to Follow

John 1:35-51

Come & See (1:34-39)

- When the Baptizer sees Jesus the next day, he points Him out to two of his disciples
 - The Baptizer again uses the title Lamb of God to refer to Jesus (see Isa 53:7)
 - Disciple (*mathātās*): one who engages in learning through instruction from another
 - It was common practice for rabbis to have young men seek them out
 - John the Baptizer had disciples of his own
- They refer to Jesus as “Rabbi”
 - An Aramaic word which means religious teacher
- The Baptizer’s disciples become Jesus’ when He invites them to come & see

Andrew & Simon (v. 40-42)

- Andrew, one of the Baptizer’s disciples, tells his brother Simon that he has found the Messiah in Jesus
 - Messiah/Christ: The anointed one
 - The promised Davidic King who would establish the Kingdom of God
- When Jesus meets Simon, He nicknames him
 - Cephas (Aramaic)/Peter (Greek): Rock

Philip & Nathanael (v. 43-51)

- Jesus & the 3 disciples leave for Galilee, where they meet Philip, whom He invites to follow Him
- Philip goes to find his friend Nathanael
 - Likely the same disciple listed as Bartholomew (“son of Tholomaeus”) in the Synoptics, who all link him with Philip (Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18; Lk 6:14)
- Philip tells him that Jesus is the one to whom all the Scriptures point (see John 5:39)
- Nathanael is skeptical because of Jesus’ hometown
 - But Philip invites Nathanael to “Come and see,” thus doing what Jesus does
- When Jesus sees Nathanael, claiming that he is without deceit
 - Willing to examine for himself the claims being made about Jesus to make his own assessment
- When asked how He knows Nathanael, Jesus replies that He saw him supernaturally before Philip even approached
 - This was enough evidence for Nathanael to call Him
 - Son of God/King of Israel: Both titles refer to Jesus as Messiah
- Jesus promises that He will show them all greater things
 - Citing the vision of Jacob’s ladder (Gen 28:12)
 - This is when God confirmed that He was expanding His covenant with Abraham to Jacob
 - Later, Jacob (“deceiver”) has his name changed to Israel (“the man who contends with/sees God”)
- Jesus is showing them that He has come to be true Israel
 - His words to Nathanael (v. 47) take on deeper meaning too

- Those who follow Jesus will be a part of this true Israel

So What?

- Are we following Jesus as His disciples?
- Are we inviting others to do the same?

Mediation Verse: John 1:51

Next Week's Scripture: John 2:1-12