



John 1:35-51 <sup>35</sup> Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

<sup>38</sup> And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?” <sup>39</sup> 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.

<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John *speak* and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which translated means Christ). <sup>42</sup> He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

<sup>43</sup> The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.” <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and *also* the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

<sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” <sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

<sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.” <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” <sup>51</sup> And He said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

As this story starts John the Baptist is talking with two of his disciples and Jesus walks by. John says to them “behold, the Lamb of God!” This is the start of a chain of events when new people are introduced to Jesus, and in

turn, introduce their family and friends to Jesus. The common theme is the idea of “come and see - we have found the Messiah.”

The two disciples are the apostle John, who is writing (he never names himself in the gospel), and Andrew (v40). Upon hearing John’s testimony about whom Jesus was they begin to follow Jesus. Jesus questions them “What do you seek?” Their response is to ask where He is staying. They want a chance to investigate Jesus, to find out all they can about Him.

Jesus is gracious and invites them to “come and see.” His offer is the same to us. “Come and see that I am the Christ.” The two disciples spend the rest of the day (and night) with Jesus from about 4:00 pm on. They get an unparalleled opportunity to listen to the Son of God.

Andrew, upon spending time with Jesus, can’t wait to find his brother. He brings his brother Simon to Jesus. Even though Simon is the dominant brother, and becomes well known in the church, it is Andrew, the unknown one who invites Peter to “come and see” – we have found the Messiah.

When Peter comes to Jesus, Jesus gives him another name. He says “you shall be called Peter (rock).” Peter is anything but a rock however. He is brash and often speaks before thinking. He definitely does not have a character like a rock.

An interesting study is how Jesus uses the names Simon and Peter throughout the gospels. When Simon is being his old unregenerate self, Jesus calls him Simon. When he is displaying qualities that bring honor to God, Jesus calls him Peter. Like us he is a mix, sometimes failing and sometimes acting like the rock he was to become.

Just like the Apostle John knew the time (tenth hour), he knew on which day (“the next day” (v 43)) events happened because he was an eyewitness.

Jesus purposed to go into to Galilee (where most of them grew up). Jesus was from Nazareth, Nathanael was from Cana, Andrew and Peter were from Bethsaida, and John was a business

associate of Andrew and Peter. These were all small villages in Galilee.

Before they go to Galilee, Jesus finds Philip. He is the only one personally sought by Jesus in this story. Jesus' call to Phillip was "follow me" – another way of saying "come and see."

Philip, upon following Jesus, wastes no time in finding his friend Nathanael. He tells Nathanael that they have found the One who fulfills the Law and the Prophets (v45). The fact that Jesus fulfills what was predicted by Moses and the Prophets means that He is the Messiah.

Even though Nathanael is from the tiny village of Cana 10 miles away he has disdain for Nazareth. "How can anything good come from that place?" Nazareth is not even mentioned in the Old Testament, and Nathanael could not believe the Messiah could come from there. (He did not know Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth.)

Philip's response was to invite Nathanael to "come and see." There was no use arguing about it, because Jesus would prove who He was. Philip was confident and challenged Nathanael to verify for himself.

As Nathanael approaches, Jesus says, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" There seems to be a play on words here. God named Israel after the patriarch Jacob whom He had renamed Israel. Jacob was a deceiver, and it is ironic that Nathanael – an Isreal(ite) was without deceit. The nation of Israel was full of hypocrites (self - deceived) as well. Professing to be right with God, yet rejecting the Messiah.

Nathanael's blunt statement about Nazareth revealed that he was truthful and willing to examine the claims of Jesus as the Messiah for himself. Suspending judgement and giving a fair hearing is rightly considered wise, and we should do the same ourselves.

The dialog continues with Nathanael wondering how Jesus could know his heart. Jesus replies "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." What fig tree is he talking about? The point is that no one knows but Nathanael and Jesus. Jesus not only knew what was in his heart, but also where he was. He was revealing His omniscience.

"Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel," is Nathanael's unhesitating response. Both of these references, "Son of God" and "King of Israel" are

Messianic titles from the Old Testament (Psalm 2). To Nathanael, Jesus was indeed the One who fulfilled what Moses and the prophets had foretold. What he had been doing under the tree is unknown as well, but it must have been significant for Jesus' revelation to have such an impact.

Nathanael had a quick and decisive response to Jesus' show of omniscience. Jesus continued by saying he would see greater things than this, he would "see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." This most likely refers to an event in Jacob's life from Genesis 28. In a vision he saw a staircase with angels ascending and descending, and God appeared to him and gave him a special promise. Jesus is telling Nathanael that he would get divine confirmation that Jesus is the Messiah.

As one of the disciples, Nathanael would see a multitude of miracles and witness the death and resurrection of Jesus. His belief would be confirmed in ways he could not have imagined.

The theme of this passage is simple: *Come and see.*

#### *Come and See*

- The Lamb of God
- The Son of God
- The King of Israel
- The Son of Man
- Him of whom Moses in the Law and *also* the Prophets wrote
- The Messiah

Have we honestly investigated the claims of Jesus?

If we have experienced the salvation Jesus offers are we inviting our family and friends to "come and see?"



## **Bible Study Information:**

### **Legislators Only**

**Next Study: Tuesday, February 27th**

**Time: 8:00 pm**

**Location: Perkins in Fort Pierre**

