

Come and See

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The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him."³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter) (John 1:29-42).

1. CES 2023

Last week, the Consumer Electronics Show was held in Las Vegas. Over 115,000 people showed up to the event from 140 countries. 40,000 people were from outside the U.S. As part of the event, vendors displayed the future of consumer technology including flying cars, a 3D notebook, a \$200 smartphone, and a \$99 hearing aids. Many people including me are excited to see what the future holds.

2. The Lamb of God

In today's scripture, we read about a story of people who were just as excited. One day, John the Baptist saw Jesus walking towards him. John said, "**Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**"

What is the meaning of John's proclamation? Leviticus 14:25 says, "**He shall slaughter the lamb for the guilt offering.**" Moses taught the Israelites about sacrificial rituals. Lambs were used in the temple for daily sacrifice. This proclamation highlighted Jesus's sacrifice as the Messiah.

The next day John was with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus was passing by, John said again, "**Look, here is the Lamb of God!**" John saw Jesus as the lamb who would die for the sins of the world. When the two disciples heard this, they left John and joined Jesus. When Jesus noticed this, he asked, "**what are you looking for?**" They said, "**Rabbi, where are you staying?**" Jesus replied, "**come and see.**" The two disciples followed Jesus from that day.

3. The First Disciples of Jesus

Who were the two disciples that left John to follow Jesus? The Bible tells us that Andrew was one of them. Before Jesus was baptized by John, John the Baptist was one of the most influential religious leaders of the time. This is why Andrew followed John. But when Andrew saw that Jesus was the Lamb of God, he decided to leave John and follow after Jesus.

Many Israelites including these two disciples were waiting for the Messiah to forgive the sins of the world. When they believed that Jesus was the Messiah, they chose to follow after him.

When the two disciples of John asked Jesus, "**where are you staying?**," the disciples were likely not asking about where Jesus lived. Instead, they were asking for permission to stay with him and learn more from Jesus. When Andrew and the other disciple met Jesus, they were excited so that Andrew invited his own brother to follow after Christ.

4. The First Disciples' Witnesses

Verse 41 says, "**The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ).**" When Jesus saw Simon, he said, "**You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas (which is translated Peter).**"

Cephas in Aramaic is what we call Peter in Greek, meaning "rock." The Bible doesn't tell us why Jesus chose this name, but likely Jesus wanted to remind Simon Peter of who he should be.

Verse 43 and the following says that Jesus left for Galilee and found Philip. Jesus said to him, "**Follow me.**" Then as Andrew invited his brother Simon to Jesus, Philip found Nathaniel and said, "**We have found the one Moses wrote about in the law, and about whom the prophets also wrote-Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph.**"

Philip stressed that Jesus was the Promised One of whom Moses and the prophets wrote.

Nathanael asked Philip, “**Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?**” Nathanael could not believe that the Messiah would be born in Nazareth, a small unknown village. Philip said, “**come and see.**” After Nathanael met Jesus, he declared, “**Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.**” When Nathanael saw the power of Christ, he recognized Jesus as the Son of God and the King of Israel.

5. Come and See

Our passage this morning tells us two stories about how the disciples of John became the disciples of Jesus. Andrew and Philip responded to Jesus’ call and then invited his brother and other to meet Jesus.

How did we come to meet Jesus? When I was five or six years old, I was invited to Vacation Bible School. I do not remember who the person was, but I am grateful to the person who invited me to VBS.

Your story may be similar to mine. Someone invited us to meet Jesus. Why do they invite us to Jesus? It is because they believe whoever comes to Jesus, people would find the true love, joy, peace, and happiness through Jesus Christ. When we come to Christ, we learn how much Jesus loves us, and that Jesus has a plan for each of our lives. That does not mean transformation happens all the time.

6. What Are You Looking For?

Look at one of the disciples Judas Iscariot. He betrayed Jesus. What about self-centered or nominal Christians in the world? Sometimes non-believers are disappointed in Christianity because of those Christians. They wonder why they are not like Jesus. To answer these questions, we need to ask ourselves the same question that Jesus asked Andrew and the other disciple: “**what are you looking for?**” Probably Jesus was asking, “what are you seeking in life?”

Eleven disciples were so faithful to their calling. They did not follow Jesus to meet their needs. After Jesus ascended, they went far and wide to share the good news of the risen Christ. They suffered greatly for their faith and, in most cases, met violent deaths because of their faith in Christ and bold witness.

I am so grateful that we have many faithful members in our church. They use their time, talents, and resources to build up God’s work in our community. There are many ministries in Swift Memorial Church, but this

morning, I just want to express my deepest thanks to music ministry team: Ben Healy and our choir.

Every Sunday, choir members come early and stay late so that we are able to worship the Lord through song and music. Our weekly service and our Christmas and Easter Cantatas wouldn't be the same, without these dedicated people. Although they may not invite the people to Christ, they indirectly invite the people to Christ when people listen to our music on YouTube and Facebook Live. Our words and deeds in our daily life could be used as an invitation to Christ.

7. Conclusion

Jesus invited the ordinary people to "come and see." They responded to Jesus' invitation. They didn't know what would happen next, but each of the disciples was searching for meaning and their lives were forever changed. They followed Jesus, often to death, and invited their friends and others to meet Christ and find God's purpose for their lives.

8. Application

Jesus invites us to meet him, see who Jesus is and encounter God's love and purpose for our lives. His invitation is not only for non-believers but also for us as well. He wants us to learn more about him and ourselves. That's why we read the Bible and join Bible study and meditate on Scripture. When we encounter Jesus, we are also called to invite others to meet the same love and purpose that we have received from Jesus.

Who do we know is in need of Jesus? I pray that we are so excited to invite someone to come and experience Jesus' amazing love, and his salvation and learn how to live his or her life for God's purpose. Amen.