

Come and See

John 1:35–51

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Three types of people that we want to highlight today

1. Seekers: Yes, I know the Bible says that “No one seeks God, no not one”, but I am using this term to describe people who God is already drawing to himself. They are ripe, open, ready to follow. Because of the work already happening in their hearts, they are seeking God.
2. Skeptics: People who are curious about God, but have some hang-ups, some questions, some doubts, or concerns.
3. Cynics: People who have, honestly, already made up their mind. They don’t want to see what might be, they just want to twist things to try and confirm their already chosen position.
4. In this passage, we see the first two types of people, but we have already encountered the third → The Pharisees!

B. We know that these people exist in our own lives as well. They are friends, families, co-workers, kids. We see ourselves in these types of people too.

1. How does Jesus respond to them? How should we?

II. JOHN 1:35-51

A. *[35] The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, [36] and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” [37] The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.*

1. Two men who are clearly seeking God → they are disciples [followers, students, apprentices] of John
2. He points and drops this title (two weeks ago) and they follow
3. Title obviously meant something to them. John had done something right

B. *[38] Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” [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. [40] One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. [41] He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). [42] He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).*

1. What are you seeking? They don’t answer. Maybe sheepishly, they ask him where he is staying
2. His answer answers their direct question and the one unstated, “Come and you WILL see!”
3. They come there at 4pm and stay for dinner to hear more about Jesus

4. But look - before they go, they gather Simon and they already announce what they've found "The Messiah!"
 5. They haven't even explored Jesus yet, but they are already convinced (either by Spirit's revelation, by John's testimony, etc)
 6. They arrive and Jesus renames Peter. Who does that? Who has authority to do that? Do I have the authority to rename your kids? Nope
 - a) The king of kings, that's who!
 7. It's impossible to know who you are if you don't know who Jesus says you are. This is true at every stage of life.
 - a) Jesus knows your true identity. Jesus knows your true name. You don't even know it yet!
 - b) I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it (Rev 2:17b)
- C. *[43] The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." [44] Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. [45] 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."*
1. A different type of person. He is ripe, but he isn't seeking. How do you know he is ripe? He follows and goes and shares w/ others
- D. *[46] Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." [47] Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" [48] Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." [49] Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"*
1. In Nathanael, we see another type - he is more skeptical
 - a) Nazareth? That's the dregs!
 - b) Nazareth? Isn't the Messiah coming from Bethlehem!
 - c) Don't take his questions as problematic. Jesus can handle them.
 2. What is Philip's response to Nathanael?
 - a) I don't know! Come and see!
 - b) Isn't it liberating to know that you don't need to know all the answers, just come and see for yourself who Jesus is.
 3. Jesus takes one look at him and sees right through him. Whatever Jesus said cut straight to the core of the man's identity
 - a) Maybe he was known as a man of honesty; Maybe he was like Honest Abe; Whatever it was, Nathanael's response was clear, "How do you know me so well?"
 - b) Isn't it amazing though that he sees us and STILL he calls us
 4. With this doozy about the fig tree, Jesus blows his mind.
 - a) What's it all about? Who knows, but whatever it was it was enough to drop Nathanel's jaw

- b) Maybe Nathanael was crying at 2am under a fig tree; maybe he was born under a fig tree; maybe he went there for his daily prayers. Who knows - it's all conjecture
- c) Whatever it was, it was enough to elicit a statement of faith!
- E. *[50] 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." [51] 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."*
 - 1. You think the fig tree trick is impressive? You ain't seen nothing yet!
 - 2. This should be its own sermon, but in summary Jesus makes reference to Jacob's Ladder in Genesis 28
 - a) Jacob's Ladder → Veil in Temple → Jesus' flesh, which is the veil
 - 3. He is foreshadowing his crucifixion and the tearing of the veil

III. Discovery Bible Study

A. What does this teach about Jesus?

1. Jesus is confident enough to be his own defense attorney.

- a) Explain why I love the DBS → "If it were true..."
- b) Explain the "peculiar glory" of the Scriptures: the self-attesting power of the Scriptures is one of the MOST powerful apologetics

2. Jesus is confident that if you come, you will see.

- a) *Isaiah 55:10–11 → [10] "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, [11] so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."*
- b) The Bible is filled w/ numerous metaphors, pictures, object lessons and all of them are designed to connect w/ different people
 - (1) In John 1 alone I counted almost 10 different titles given to Jesus and each one w/ its own nuance that answers different doubts and questions.
 - (2) The Bible speaks to the farmer, the fisherman, the warrior, the lover, the scholar. Do not think for a moment that it will not fulfill its appointed purpose (Christocentric) b/c it will.
 - (a) Will it give you all you want to know about X? No, that's not the point of the big. It is sufficient in its purpose, but it is not exhaustive in its scope.
- c) But if you come to discover who Jesus is, you will see him! Jesus is what you are looking for.
- d) What a beautiful thing - Jesus invites us to come and see. Not to come and X; to come and see. He does the rest.

3. Seeing Jesus is contagious.

- a) When you see him, you want others to see him too. If you don't want others to see him, you need to check your heart!
- b) Selfish faith isn't an option. This faith is meant to be given away.

B. What does this teach about people?

1. People are more ready than you realize.

- a) God is already doing the work to prepare people to discover Jesus
- b) Luke 10:2, the fields are ripe for harvest

2. If you seek, you will find.

- a) Behold I stand at the door and knock... If you seek, you will find... Come close to God and he will draw close to you.
- b) If you seek to know Jesus, not to know what scholars say about him, or unlock all the mysteries of the document hypothesis theory, or become the world's leading Egyptologist - if you seek Jesus, you will find him, but only as you seek him on his terms

C. What should we do? Heed the words of Jesus, "Come and see!"

D. Who do we invite to come and see? Everyone!

- 1. Explain Oikos Mapping, Social Circles

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. Bottom Line: Jesus is more than enough for all of your questions and hang-ups, but the invitation is to come and see, not to see and then come. If you come, you will see!

B. Are you willing to actually come and see? What type of person are you?

- 1. **Are you a seeker?** Jesus is inviting you to **Come and see!** who he is. He calls to you - follow me! Not a religion, not a pastor, a king. King Jesus.
- 2. **Are you a skeptic?** Jesus invites you to **Come and see!** for yourself. He can stand up to your scrutiny. He is more than enough for your doubts, and his Word will reveal what you need to see concerning himself.
- 3. **Are you a cynic?** A cynic peppers people with questions from afar. He doesn't really want answers. He wants to stand far off without drawing near. We invite you to come and see but you most likely won't.
 - a) Can I tell you why? Because the cynic is afraid of what he'll learn.

C. I want to invite you to **Come and see!**

- 1. Are you willing to do a Discovery Bible Study?
- 2. Are you willing to investigate the answers to your questions or do you want to just pepper other believers with questions?

D. Invite your social circles to come and see. - just like these men did.

- 1. Only you are strategically placed within your groups to reach your groups.
- 2. You have friends who fall into these categories. Some are seekers. Some are skeptics. Some are cynics. Invite them to come and see, and watch what God does!

3. GET EQUIPPED: Sign up for the Hub beginning soon! Day class (Tuesday at 9 am) and evening class (Wed 8 pm) beginning the week of April 9th and 10th respectively.