

Gospel Talk Bible Study
God With Us
A Study of John's Gospel: "The First Followers"
John 1:35-42

Novembers 6, 2019

"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?'" (John 1:39)

I. Jesus Gathers His Disciples (vv.35-37)

- a. The first *witness* (John the Baptist) introduced the first disciples to Jesus, *Behold the Lamb of God*.
- b. The first two disciples to follow Jesus were John, the writer of the Gospel, and his friend Andrew.
- c. In Jewish culture teachers were traditionally surrounded by *learners*, which is what *disciples* means.
- d. John the Baptist deliberately encouraged his disciples to transfer their allegiance to Jesus.
- e. At a time when public trust in Christian leaders is at an all-time low, the world needs preachers who are prepared to let go of self-ambitions in order to advance Jesus' agenda.
- f. Andrew's reaction to finding Jesus has been a classic model for Christian witness over the centuries. He began with his immediate family, without knowing much about Jesus.
- g. Peter is addressed by Jesus in terms of the person he was to become. The name, Cephas, would give way to *Petros*, meaning "rock."
- h. Jesus calls us to what will be. We live between the *already*, and the *not yet*.

II. What are You Seeking? (vv.38-42)

- a. By asking this question, Jesus was forcing them to define their purposes and goals.
- b. Jesus' question is a useful challenge to hypocritical motives. It is a searching question at every stage of life as we walk with Him. *What do you want?*
 1. How have your wants and desires changed since you initially followed Jesus?
 2. Describe how your understanding of Jesus has changed since following Him.
- c. We should always be *seeking/desiring* something that only Jesus can do. This type of seeking keeps our relationship with Him exciting and dependent.
- d. Notice that Jesus does not press them for an immediate response, but gives them an opportunity to spend time with Him before making a commitment.
- e. This is a lesson for our Christian *witnesses*, when we expect immediate results from our outreach.
 1. To force a birth prematurely may have disastrous impact spiritually, as it would physically.
- f. As students of the Bible we must keep in mind, that Jesus was never caught off-guard, by anything He saw or experienced. He knew exactly who His first disciples would be, since the *beginning*.
- g. Have you given any thought as to why Jesus selected these disciples to be the first?

III. Personal Application of His Word

- a. In all of creation you will never find God repeating Himself. Even identical twins are not *identical*.
- b. God ordains different methods as well as different forms of man. He delivers His people according to His own will and in different forms. (jaw-bone, a sling/stone, a sword)
- c. The calling of the disciples illustrates that chooses us a variety of people with diverse backgrounds.
- d. It appears the kingdom of God thrives on diversity.
- e. Jesus approached people from the perspective of their potential. In our witness, we should not look for the "clean sinners", but seek those who seeking to be clean. (Luke 11:13; Romans 5:8)