

## **“Come and See” John 1:35-51**

*Series: Face to Face with Jesus – Week 1*

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There are many passages that talk to us about what it means to SEE. In Luke 6:39 the scriptures say, He also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? In John 4. Jesus schedules a meeting with a woman, a meeting she was not expecting and during His conversation with her, He reveals many things about her life. After she realizes who He is, she runs to the town and tells the town people to “COME and SEE a man who told me all I ever did, can this be the Christ?” They went out of town and were coming to Him. John 4:29 & 30

Seeing all the townspeople, Jesus invited His disciples to join the work. Jesus said, “Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and SEE that the fields are white for harvest...I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” John 4:35 & 38

“COME and SEE” is not just a slogan on a tee shirt or a car decal. Though I must admit it's pretty cool looking. It's a call and an invite. A call to follow and an invite to join Him. In John 1:35-51 are three particular examples we SEE when Jesus calls and invites His disciples to Him.

These first disciples are familiar with different. These disciples were disciples of John and this new way of doing things such as baptism of repentance was clearly not the norm. They were desiring to be part of the change. The normal way you would show repentance and seek forgiveness was the sacrifice of a lamb. John had pointed out to these particular men “behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29.

These men come to Jesus desiring things to change. These men were already seeking. How many times have you met someone for the first time and somewhere in the beginning of your conversation you say, “Hey where are you from or where do you live?” All of us have asked something very similar. Why? I know when I have asked it was to see if we have something in common, to continue our conversation, or to learn something new about them. In the mind of a Jew in those days, where and how a person lived would tell a lot about them, for example if we asked Nathanael he would have agreed. We will talk about his encounter with Jesus later.

What is really interesting about Jesus' response to Andrew and the other disciple is that he doesn't continue answering their question with a long explanation, He gets straight to the point and invites them to “Come”. It's like Jesus was implying (taking a little liberty here for clarity) “If you really want to get to know me, than “Come.” For someone, to “Come” it requires them to willingly “Follow.” These men don't know Jesus and have just seen John baptize Him “yesterday”. As far as they know this is just the guy that John called the Lamb of God, and what in the world does that mean? But, they did exactly as Jesus had said “Come” and they followed.

What does it mean to “See”? Remember when you were younger and there was this amazing thing that your best friend had just found and they ran to you and were like “bro, you have got to see this.” You’re like, man I’m not sure about this”, and they say, “Come and See” for yourself.” That statement alone hooked you and you go anyway. Why? Because seeing is believing. I think it was more of the curiosity of discovery. The invite to discover more of who Jesus was or what He was about. After all, John was pretty legit and they hoped Jesus was who John said He was. Andrew and the other disciple did find what they were looking for, after all they stayed with Jesus the entire day. The amazing thing that they discovered, is they were found.

Does this story remind you of you? Early I stated that Andrew and the other disciple were a part of something different, change was happening and they were in it. Are you a person who is part of change, please know there is more to this “kingdom of God” thing than just “baptism”, learning something new, or doing church rituals. Then get involved with something new, “COME and SEE.” Follow and you will discover new things about Christ and what He is leading you to do. You are all given gifts to use, so be a part of His work.

Another part of the story of Andrew is that he never kept this new discovery to himself. It’s too good to keep it to yourself. This amazing discovery of the promise made so long ago drove Andrew to share it, he was FACE to FACE with the Messiah. Andrew went to his brother Simon Peter, family - the closest of family must hear about this. So Andrew said “Come and See.” Andrew, who was probably like your friend who discovered that amazing thing and ran to share it with you, did the same for his brother Simon Peter. COME and SEE the amazing one. Is there someone in your family that just has to hear about this amazing savior? Go share and ask them to “COME and SEE.”

Another day goes by and Jesus comes across this guy Philip and wastes no time with him. Jesus says “Follow Me” and what does Philip do? Well, he sees Andrew and Peter there, them being from the same city, he has nothing to lose and everything to gain. Know that there is assurance in surrender. Philip immediately followed. Have you ever felt after meeting someone, you just have to get to know them? This encounter with Philip and Jesus reminds me of that. But, Philip doesn’t keep this amazing encounter to himself. He also finds someone to share it with. “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.” John 1:45. Nathanael, being quick to stick with his preconceived ideas says, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Have you ever decided based on what others have said or just to be a part of the crowd said something similar? I remember a moment when I was looking for a place to move to after God had called us to Woodside. We came across some homes for sale or rent that we had done a stats search on and the website did not favor those particular areas. My wife and I were like, “that’s not a good place to move. Nothing good is there for us.” We all need reminders and God gave us a big one. Information on a place based on what others say or the data that is collected on it doesn’t define if there is good there. You see, God is always present and He’s all the good you’ll ever need wherever He leads you. Nathanael learns this lesson all too well. Philip said to Nathanael “COME and SEE!” Nathanael comes to that realization that there is good from Nazareth. *Everywhere God is, is good!*

When you read Nathanael's encounter, I hope you can see your encounter. Many of us had a preconceived idea about Jesus, maybe for what you were told or when you attended church. I can personally assure you He is nothing like what you think, He is so much better. Are you seeking the new, something different or truth to help ground you during these times? Many of us get involved with new things and want to see change. Is it the right change? Is it the right different? Is it God's truth? Are you like Andrew and the other disciple who could have stayed with John and missed the change they were seeking? Jesus called them and has called you, to "COME and SEE." These two were the Seekers of God and were willing to go and discover Him. Or are you like Philip, when called to Follow you just follow, no questions asked, sure and confident in who you just encountered? Plain and simple, "SEE" and trust. Philip was "the Follower"

Or are you like Nathanael full of preconceived ideas and convinced there is nothing good out there? Do we need to be confronted with the reality that we don't know everything? Does God have to tell you something to prove He is good or He is who He says He is? Nathanael was what Jesus said he was, the Genuine Seeker of Truth. Truth is always there but for it to affect you, you must believe the truth. Which are you, Seeker of God, a Follower God, or a Seeker of Truth?

One more very important principle I will leave with you: The Principle of the Invitation. Jesus invites everyone to COME and SEE. Not only does He do it, but He has us do it as well. You SEE, John shared with Andrew and the other disciple, Andrew shared with Simon Peter, and Philip shared with Nathanael! Now that you have had an encounter with Jesus, is there someone you can share your encounter with?

Go and Invite someone to "COME and SEE"!