



## Why Everyone Should Follow Jesus

### John 1:29-43

29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

**The first two disciples on record as followers of Jesus** are the fruits of preaching. "**The two disciples heard John speak, and they followed Jesus**" John 1:37. We can confidently expect to see a great number of souls brought to God by the preaching of this simple but profound truth: [Jesus is the Lamb of God](#).

The preaching of the cross is to those who perish, foolishness; but unto us who are saved, it is the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Wherever the redeemed of the Lord, whom He has redeemed from out of the hand of the enemy begin to boldly tell what He has done for them, there will be conversions!

For there to be many conversions wrought in this community, believers must be led by the Spirit, and must persevere in witnessing with great faith and boldness. And this is to be the bottom-line of all our efforts, the raw material out of which we formulate every conversation- "Jesus; Jesus the Lamb; Jesus the sin-bearer."

Something was stirred up in Andrew and his companion, and they began to follow Jesus, not exactly as disciples as yet, but as searchers.

Jesus asked them the question, "**What seek ye?**" Notice that. It is the first question of his ministry recorded in the gospel of John. Allow me to speak in his stead today and ask you, "What are you looking for? What seek ye?"

- Are you seeking pardon? You will find it in Christ.
- Are you seeking peace? He will give you rest.
- Are you seeking purity? He will take away your sin, give you a new heart, and put a right spirit within you.
- Are you seeking strength to live a triumphant, overcoming life? He will give you power.
- Are you seeking answers to some problems? He will give you wisdom & understanding.

"**What seek ye?**" Jesus asked. They said, "**Master, where dwellest thou?**" In other words, "If we can get to where you are, our searching will be over." And his answer to them was, "**Come and see.**"

You want peace? Come and see whether I can give it to you. I tell you that if you trust me, your peace shall be like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea. Just come and see!

- You say you want to rid yourself of feelings of guilt & condemnation? If you will confess your sins, I am faithful & just... And if that does not purify your heart and renew your spirit, Confess your faults one to another... "Come and see."
- You are seeking answers to questions that trouble your mind about the gospel, or about my ways, or you do not understand who I am in relationship to my Father in heaven. "Come and see."
- If you will come after me, and follow me, you will see. The eyes of your understanding will be enlightened.

They took Jesus at his word; they came and they saw. We are not told what they saw, but we are told the result: they ending up staying in His presence that night, and they remained with him and became his faithful followers.

**The third of Jesus' disciples, named Simon Peter,** was brought in by a personal witness instead of by the public preaching of the Word. Notice the 41<sup>st</sup> verse, "**Andrew first findest his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.**"

This case seems to be the pattern wherever there is a healthy and robust spiritual life. When Christ searches us out and finds us, the natural thing to do is for us to find others!

The word "first" implies that Andrew did not quit bringing people to Jesus - he **first** found his own brother Simon; how many he found afterwards, we are not told, but I think it is safe to say that Andrew continued to be a fisher of men until he died. He probably found very many after he had found Peter.

The first instinct of the newborn believer is to desire the good of others. How will anyone believe that we have tasted that the Lord is good if we keep Him all to ourselves? The saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ puts a stopper to any spiritual monopoly.

When he went to find his brother, Andrew may not have thought of what Simon might become. Simon Peter, as you may be aware, became a leader among the apostles, and with that ready tongue of his, and that bold, dashing, daring spirit, and with that confident, resolute mind, no one was a match for Peter. John might excel in love, but still Peter was verily a prince among the apostles, and Andrew would hardly compare with him.

You may be very lacking in natural abilities, and yet you may be the means of bringing someone to Christ who becomes a tremendous soul-winner, missionary, evangelist, pastor or teacher. You may but befriend a child, and in that little boy or girl there may be slumbering a person who will stir and awaken the Church in years to come.

**John 1:43. The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findest Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.**

The fourth disciple is called without either public preaching or a private testimony - he is called directly BY THE VOICE OF JESUS.

We cannot tell when God may speak to someone's heart, for though we are to preach & teach, and though we are to cry to God to send forth laborers into the vineyard, yet the sovereign Lord of all will frequently work without any known means beyond his Spirit.

The Word that has been heard in years gone by or the Scripture that was known in childhood, may by the direct power of the Holy Spirit, without any apparent other means, turn an individual from darkness to light. Jesus spoke but two words, but those words were enough—"Follow me;" he said, and Philip at once obeyed. What preparation of heart there had been before, I cannot tell. What still small voice had been speaking before this in Philip's ear, we do not know. Certainly the only outward means was this voice of Christ saying, **Follow me.**"

And there may be in this sanctuary some who will be saved this day. You do not know why you are here; you are not sure why you came in; but yet it may be {and God knows), that He wanted you to come here because he was coming here himself. Is not there something which invites our consideration in that word "would," as we read it in this verse?-**The next day following Jesuswould go forth into Galilee**" John 1:43.

What shall we say of Nathanael? Did public ministry convert him? It does not say.

Did a private witness convert him? That's partly true. Philip found Nathanael, but Philip's finding of Nathanael was not quite so effectual as Jesus' finding of Philip. When Christ found Philip, Philip believed; but when Philip found Nathanael, Nathanael did not believe at first. He asked him doubtfully, "**Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?**" John 1:46.

Philip is partly the instrument of Nathanael's conversion, but there is something more. Jesus Christ revealed **himself** to Nathanael BY TELLING HIM THE SECRETS OF HIS HEART. Even then, however, Nathanael's belief in Christ seems to be PARTLY OWING TO THE STATE IN WHICH HE THEN WAS. He was already in some sense a religious man; in fact, he was a devout Jew.

If you are seeking after spiritual reality, I urge you to turn to Jesus. The passage I read in John 1:45-50 reveals three reasons why everyone should turn to Him:

- BECAUSE HE IS AWARE OF US
- BECAUSE HE IS AVAILABLE TO US
- BECAUSE HE IS ADEQUATE FOR US

45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

## I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT JESUS IS VERY MUCH AWARE OF YOU TODAY!

Philip went to Nathanael to tell him about Jesus. As Nathanael approached, Jesus said, "*Look, an Israelite indeed, that is without guile.*"

Nathanael was surprised by Jesus' greeting and asked how Jesus knew him. Jesus replied that He saw Nathanael sitting under the fig tree before Philip went after him. This tells us that before we even come to Jesus He is aware of what is happening in our lives.

It is evident that it was from something that had occurred under the fig-tree that Jesus judged of his character. What

that was is not recorded. He probably was accustomed to seek out the shade of a certain tree, perhaps in his garden or in a grove, for the purpose of meditation and prayer. The Jews were much in the habit of selecting such places for private devotion, and in such scenes of stillness and retirement there is something especially favorable for meditation and prayer.

[I saw thee] It is clear, from the narrative, that Jesus did not mean to say that he was bodily present with Nathanael and saw him; but he knew his thoughts, his desires, his secret feelings and wishes.

He sees us especially in our private devotions, hears our prayers, and marks our meditations. And he judges of our character chiefly by our private devotions.

*All of your desire is before him; and your groaning is not hid from him.*

## ***He both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts:***

John, three chapters later, records how that Jesus and His disciples stopped at a well outside Samaria. While the disciples went into town to purchase food, Jesus sat at the well. Then a woman came to draw water from the well. She was surprised when He asked her for a drink because Jews didn't often speak to Samaritans. Jesus told her if she knew who He was she would ask of Him a drink. Obviously there was no bucket nearby for Him to draw water so she didn't know what He meant. When He explained that the water He gives means never thirsting again, she quickly asked for it.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman to go get her husband and He would give the water to her. She replied that she had no husband. Then Jesus shocked her by saying, "True. You've been married five times and now live with a man who is not your husband." Jesus knew all about her and He knows all about us!

Job searched for answers from God about his suffering. He looked everywhere for God. He records it as, "*Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: on the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: but he knoweth the way that I take*" (23:8-10). He said, I looked in front of me, but God wasn't there. I sought behind me but God wasn't there. I searched on the left side but God wasn't there. I hunted on the right but God was hiding (God had to be somewhere). Then Job imparts this great, comforting truth: when I don't know where God is, He knows where I am! He is aware.

Bro. Mike Anderson tells the story that as a boy growing up they had family devotions every morning before leaving for school. His mother would wake the children and while they dressed she prepared breakfast. Then, he recalled, we all sat together at the table and as we ate she read to us. For several weeks she read the book Hey God, the autobiography of Frank Foglio. Frank Foglio recorded how his mother prayed for her husband and her children every day. Often she waited until everyone was in bed upstairs then she stood under their room and hollered, "Hey God! You see my boy up there in bed. You know I love him and he's lost. Save him God!" Frank Foglio wrote that God didn't need to be yelled at but that was how his mother prayed. And, of course, God knew where they were.

## **Ps 139:1-6**

O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. 2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. 3 Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. 5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

*6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.*

## **But Jesus is not only aware of us; He is there for us.**

**HE IS AVAILABLE TO EVERY ONE OF US AT THIS MOMENT!**

## Ps 139:7-10

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

When Philip asked Nathanael to meet Jesus, Nathanael asked, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip gave a marvelous answer, "Come and see." We should be ready to give that answer to our family and friends. We should have the confidence in God and our church that whatever the objection we simply say, "Come and see for yourself."

God does not play hide and seek games. We may not always be able to recognize Him or feel Him but we are certain that He is available. Jesus promised us, "*Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world,*" (Matthew 28:20).

And in another place He said, "*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee,*" (Hebrews 13:5).

### Gen 16:6-13

6 But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face. 7 And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. 8 And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai. 9 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands. 10 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. 11 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. 12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren. 13 And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

After one especially weary day of teaching the people, and multiplying five loaves and two fish to feed them, Jesus sent the disciples to the other side of the sea by boat. He then went to the mountain to pray. Later in the night a storm rose and the disciples feared drowning. Then Jesus came walking to them across the water. At first it frightened them, until Jesus identified Himself. Then Peter answered Him, "*Lord, if it's you, let me walk to you.*" Jesus said, "Come." Peter stepped out of the boat and walked toward Jesus. Then he began to look at the waves around him and the water under him. When he took his eyes off Jesus he began to sink, but he knew what to do. He cried out for Jesus. Matthew wrote that "immediately" Jesus grabbed Peter's hand and was saved. [Jesus is available!](#)

Every moment I have of instant emergency convinces me that I should always be grateful for an ever-present, available God!

### He is aware!

**He is available! And, thank God,**

**HE IS ADEQUATE FOR US!**

Nathanael was surprised when Jesus greeted him as the man who sat under a fig tree who did not manipulate people. He responded that Jesus must be God.<sup>49</sup> *Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.*

Jesus told him not to be surprised by His awareness, but that he would see greater things than that. John's gospel is filled with evidence that proves Jesus is adequate for every need and every situation. This is shown in every chapter. First of all, we are told that,

- The word, which was God, was made flesh and dwelt among us (1:14)
- He showed forth his glory at a marriage feast in Cana by turning water into wine (2:9).
- In chapter 3:2, a Pharisee & ruler of the Jews declared to Jesus, "*We know that thou art a teacher come from God, for no man can do these miracles that thou doest except God be with him.*

- In 4:10, he is the source of living water to all to ask of Him.
- In 5:8, He showed his adequacy to heal to a man who had not walked in 38 years by telling him, “**Rise, take up thy bed and walk.**”
- In chapter 6, He multiplied a few small loaves of bread and 2 little fish and fed thousands of followers.
- He is adequate to satisfy the thirst of the soul of man, as is proved by his statement in Jn 7:37-38, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**
- In Jn 8:12, Jesus said, “**I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

· In John 9, He gives sight to one born blind.

John 10:11 reveals Him as the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep.

Jesus said in Jn 11:25-26 **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.**

Chapter 12 pictures Him as the King of the Jews, triumphantly entering Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey, as had been prophesied centuries before by Zachariah.

The adequacy of Christ to change our lives is revealed by the new commandment he gave in

Jn 13:34, That we love one another; as he has loved us, that we also love one another.

His words in 14:6 show that He is more than enough. He said, **I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh to the Father, but by me.**

Without Him, we can do nothing, but if we abide in Him, we will bring forth much fruit, as He said in chapter 15:5.

In John 16, He is the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, who leads us into all truth.

He is the intercessor for the church (chapter 17).

Jesus' kingdom is not of this world, according to His words in chapter 18:36.

He is the sacrifice that takes away the sin of the world (chapter 19).

He is the first fruits of the resurrection (chapter 20).

He is the restorer of fallen disciples (chapter 21).

## **Whatever you need and whenever or wherever you need anything, Jesus is adequate! In fact, He is more than enough!**

Paul, sitting in a Roman prison cell testified, as is recorded for our learning in Phil 4, starting at vs 13, “**I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.** Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. 15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. 18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

On the basis of that he then promises his readers, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus," (4:19). Paul knew the luxury and the lean of side of life and he confidently asserted that God is always adequate!

Even the world knows this. Once a new convert told me that it was OK for her to keep on sinning a little bit after being saved because she needed some time to adjust to the newness of Pentecost. Therefore, she felt like God understood if she watched her soap operas on TV now & then, and swore when she got upset, and smoked a little.

"That's true." I told her. "God understands, because He knows that our hearts are deceitful & desperately wicked. But He also knows the awful price Christ paid to save us from our sins and to redeem us from all iniquity."

I believe Jesus is adequate for any change we need to make. He is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by him!

So, why should we follow Jesus? Simply stated: **He is aware of our need, He is available for our need and He is adequate to our need!**

He is a Saviour you can trust!

Jesus is still inviting each one of us, **Come unto me , all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.

Jesus is very much aware of you at this moment.

He is in this house right now.

He is ready and willing to meet your need.

Will you come to him, believing? Call upon his name, & you will be saved.

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