

His Disciples **John 1:35-51**

35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?"

They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?"

39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus.

Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and 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."

46 And 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 is no deceit!"

48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

50 Jesus answered and said to 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, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." NKJV

Jesus' time was short. He only had about 3 ½ years to accomplish all that He will do in this world. John does not record the temptation as does Matthew and Mark. He begins right away with Jesus ministry and John the Baptist's part in that. Remember how I told you that all of the future apostles were once disciples of John the Baptist and had been baptized by him.

Acts 1:21-22 "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." NKJV

Jesus begins with two who followed upon John's announcement. One of them is Andrew who calls his brother Peter. The next is Philip who then calls Nathanael. Here we see Jesus with at least His first 5 disciples, His little assembly that He will begin to nourish and teach to groom them to be not only His first disciples but to ultimately be His Apostles.

The call to discipleship is a call to Jesus. It is a call that we all are challenged to answer in the affirmative. There is much for us to see in this passage. Let us look.

- I. Who were these men who followed Jesus?
 - A. They were common men.
 1. Fishermen, tax collectors, and various others.
 2. They had various political views. Simon the zealot - Matthew the tax collector.
 - B. They were not well educated men.
 1. You would have never chosen them to write the New Testament.
 2. Even Jesus was considered an uneducated person by the elite of His day.
 3. John 7:14-15 Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. 15 And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?" NKJV
- II. Why did they follow Him?
 - A. They knew He was the Messiah, because John the Baptist said so.
 - B. They were amazed at His teaching.
 - C. They marveled at His miracles.
 1. Power over disease and sickness.
 2. Power over the elements.
 3. Power to change a tomb living demoniac into a rational person.
- III. What does it mean to follow Jesus?
 - A. The meaning of disciple is a follower.
 1. It involved a submission and learning from a teacher/leader
- IV. What does Jesus require of those who follow Him?
 - A. He requires holiness.
 - B. He requires submission.
 - C. He requires allegiance.

V. Why should we follow Him?

- A. Not to see the miracles or be filled with loaves and fish like those in John 6:26-27
 - 1. John 6:26-27 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." NKJV
- B. He alone offers eternal life.
 - 1. John 10:27-30 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. NKJV
- C. He alone has the words of eternal life.
 - 1. John 6:68-69 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." NKJV
- D. There is no one else worthy.
- E. There is no one else holy.
- F. None other died for our sins.
- G. None other loves as much.
- H. None other will be our ultimate judge.

Jesus is still stopping people in the midst of their lives to bid them to follow Him. He does not promise power, prosperity, influence or the other things the world longs for. He offers forgiveness of sins, eternal life with Him, a matchless love and a life of service. But millions have answered the call over the centuries. They have forsaken their nets, their home, their careers, their fortunes and many times their families to follow Him. Some have lived long lives but many more have sealed their testimony with their own blood. They loved not their own lives even to death. They have served in Toulon, in Africa, China, India and thousands of forgotten places around the world. They have ministered to farmers, to housewives, to the street children of Bombay. They have served the tribesmen of Brazil, the tribes of the Himalayas, and the islanders of Indonesia.

In the words of the writer of Hebrews. Heb 11:35-38 Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. NKJV **What about YOU!!!**