

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY
"The Gospel of John"
Pastor Jim Otte
Spring – Fall, 2019

Lesson 8 – 1:38-51 – Come and see!

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.

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.^[a]⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus^[b] 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^[c]).

- a. "What are you seeking?" – How they answered Jesus' question, would reveal their expectations, as a starting point, in their journey with Him.
 - a. Jesus will always take you, where you are, as your 'starting point.'
 - b. Their Messianic assumptions did not deter Him from calling them to be His disciples!
- b. "Come and you will see." – Jesus sets the teaching pattern of answering a question with an invitation to gather together, sit down, and talk through a question.
- c. "Andrew...first found his own brother...brought him to Jesus" – Andrew is presented in the Gospel of John, as one who brings others to Jesus!
 - a. Peter (John 1:41-42)
 - b. Little boy with fish and bread (John 6:8-9)
 - c. Greeks (John 12:22)
 - d. Andrew's ministry of invitation and bringing
- d. "We have found the Messiah" – the 'anointed one,' kings were anointed prior to their kingship.
- e. "You shall be called Cephas" – Jesus' renaming of Simon offers two insights:
 - a. In the Old Testament, when a leader was called to a new relationship with Yahweh, he was given a new name (Jacob to Israel in Gen.32:28; Abram to Abraham in Gen.17:5).
 - b. It was as if a new name meant a new life, new priorities, new...
 - c. Peter's journey with Jesus would take him and shape him into the disciple Jesus wanted him to be!

d. Peter = “stone” masculine (petros) = pebble; feminine (petra) = massive mountain of rock. “On this petra I will build My church” **Matthew 16:18**

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.”**

⁴⁶ **Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”**

- a. **“He found Philip”** – Jesus was intentional about going to Galilee. “Found” is “intentionally searching for,” as opposed to “accidently stumbling across.”
- b. **“Philip found Nathanael”** – family and friends are still the primary pathways for people coming to faith in Jesus.
 - a. Family and friends are often key to getting involved in a church!
 - b. National statistics: 70%
 - c. Upside: is an aid to feeling a sense of belonging.
 - d. Downside: sometimes people only speak to people they know!
- c. **“Can anything good..?”** - Nazareth was a town not known for much! (The reality was that Nathanael’s town of Cana was not known for much, either!) Nathanael, was unimpressed and perhaps cynical of the claim made of Jesus.
- d. **Philip said to him, “Come and see.”** – Philip’s response to Nathanael’s retort:
 - a. No arguing or debating
 - b. No giving up in discouragement
 - c. No well-rehearsed counter argument.
 - d. He cares enough about Nathanael to take an interest in his search.
 - e. He takes Nathanael’s retort as “seeking,” not “rejecting.”
 - f. Genuine invitation to come and decide for himself.

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!”** 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,^[d] you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”**

- a. **“an Israelite...in whom there is no deceit!”** – Jesus expresses admiration for Nathanael, as a “pull no punches” kind of guy; what you see is what you get!
- b. **“How do you know me?”** – “know” in the sense of knowing his inner thoughts
- c. **“I saw you.”** – Jesus demonstrated His divine power to “see” someone not in the immediate vicinity. Nathanael was impressed!
- d. **“You will see greater things than these.”** – Jesus predicts a change in the sight abilities of His disciple. Following Jesus...
 - a. Gives trustworthy, spiritual confidence, even when it is irrational to believe.
 - i. **Hebrews 11:1** - *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

- b. Gives courage, not dependent on life being manageable.
 - i. **2 Corinthians 5:6-7.** - *So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸*
- c. Gives the faith to see God at work in the world (or a particular situation), even when others do not see it.
 - i. **Hebrews 11:1** - *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*
- e. “angels of God ascending and descending” – recalls the story of Jacob’s Ladder.
 - a. **Genesis 28:12.** *And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the **angels** of God were ascending and **descending** on it!*
- f. “Son of Man.” – The title by which Jesus references Himself; His disciples and other believers call Him “the Son of God.”
 - a. Recalls God’s references to His O.T. prophets.
 - i. **Ezekiel 3:4.** - *And he said to me, “**Son of man**, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them.*
 - b. Recalls God’s designation of the coming Messiah:
 - i. **Daniel 7:13-14.** - *“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*
 - c. Commentators attribute this as the acknowledgment of Jesus’ human nature, as well as His refusal to give in to the flawed Messianic expectations of the culture.