

John 1:35-42 (NIV)

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³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

³⁸Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?”

³⁹“Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.

⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).

⁴²And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

43-01-01-Becoming a Christ-Follower

discipleship, obedience, evangelism, identity

John 1:35-42

We find our true purpose only by finding and following the Truth.

INTRODUCTION:

–“*Who am I? Am I important? What’s my purpose?*” These deep-down questions aren’t *popular*, because they’re uncomfortable. But Jesus answers them by telling us, “Follow Me. We discover our *true selves* by **becoming a Christ-follower**,

–*Self-made people aren’t all that happy*. [It’s said Alexander the Great wept when he had no more worlds to conquer.] When rich people commit suicide or popular entertainers turning to drugs, it shows that *fame* and *fortune* don’t bring human satisfaction. We were created to serve God and *others*. True happiness is to follow His purposes for our lives.

–In today’s **text**, we see that the first thing on Christ’s agenda (even before His *miracles* or *preaching*) was *drawing disciples*. His priority was a direct, relational transfer of ministry. His *call to discipleship* answers those “deep-down” questions about human meaning, because **HOM.idea**. This begins when we...

I. Stick with the Right People

A. We need to be with people like *John the Baptist*– v.35, *The next day John was there again with two of his disciples*. (these 2 are our examples)

1. John’s Christ-exalting testimony was *consistent* and *persistent*– v.29-31, The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.” (*John exalted Jesus!*)
 - a. We need to be around those who **put Christ first** (If they *do draw others*, they direct them to the world’s Savior.)
 - b. We need to be around those who **set Christ forth** (Their *hope*, like John’s, is that Christ “might be revealed,” not themselves.)
2. John *acted oddly* most of the time, but his motives were *godly!*
 - a. [KJV calls us “a peculiar people”] What his *prophetic personality* lacked social finesse, he made up for in spiritual fervor.)
 - b. He knew things *imperfectly* but was teachable. (A *willingness-*

to-learn attitude can rub off from those we associate with.)

- B. Good companions remind us of *the essential message*— v.36. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” [This was John’s 3rd time of pointing Jesus out to his followers.] (Thank God for *repetition*, because we don’t always follow Jesus the 1st time we’re called.)

TRANS: *Whom we should follow* is a common preoccupation (which *author* to read, or *preacher* to listen to, or *politician* to support). John pointed others to Christ. The *right friends* will do the same, so we can...

II. Discover What We Truly Want

- A. At first, it may seem we find only what others want for us— v.37. When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. (It may start that way: following Jesus because of teachers or family or friends.)
- B. But eventually there must be a direct interaction with Him— v.38a. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” (At that time, there were many religious wants motivating people.)
1. Pharisees, conservative legalists, wanted the old ways preserved.
 2. Sadducees, political liberals, wanted power and prestige.
 3. Zealots, revolutionaries, wanted freedom from oppression.
 4. Essenes, religious cultists, wanted purity from a defiled society.
 5. These motivations still continue, along with others: wanting a different experience, financial security, popularity, you name it.)
- C. The right motivation is seen in the reply given by those in v.38b. They said, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?”
1. “Teacher” implied an authentic disciple’s wish to know the truth!
 2. “Where are you staying?” implied they wanted more time with Him.
- D. Christ’s reply is the key to understanding everything, including ourselves— v.39a, “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” (This is always the path to knowledge: the will’s right choice leads to the mind’s grasp of truth— John 7:17. If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.)
- E. These men made the right choice— v.39b. So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him...
1. Christian discipleship means spending time with Jesus.
 2. A “yes” to spending quality time with Christ often requires a “no” to being with others or using time in other ways.)

TRANS: *What do we really want? Do we want to be who we’re meant to be? We find our true purpose only by finding and following the Truth. If we want to be truly *happy*, truly *fulfilled*, we will say “yes” to Christ’s discipleship call, “come and see.” *Only then can we...**

III. Discover Who We Truly Are

- A. Since we were created to be disciples of the God of truth, our identity is found by letting Truth define our discipleship.
1. John was “the voice of one crying in the wilderness.” *What are we?* (“We’re the only Gospel some people will ever read.”)
 2. Our new identity defines new priorities— v.41. *The first thing* Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah.”
 - a. Like Andrew’s new priority, our “first thing” is telling about the Truth “We have found...” (We’re now messengers of *Good News!*)
 - b. Then, in v.42a, “he brought him to Jesus.” (*True disciples* also know that only the Holy Spirit can bring Jesus to people. Often, the most we can do is to bring them to Him in prayer.)
- B. Truth the Person must tell us our true identity— v.42b. *Jesus looked at him* and said, “**You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas.**”
1. Jesus not only has His eyes on us but knows us intimately:
 - a. “You are Simon”— Jesus knows us on a first name basis.
 - b. “You are ... son of John”— Jesus knows our entire background.
 2. Union with Jesus (“the Truth”) defines our new identity:
 - a. Relationship with God renames us from sinner to saint [Jacob ‘wrestler’ to Israel ‘prince’; Abram ‘father’ to Abraham ‘father of many’].
 - b. Jesus said, “**You will be called Cephas (Peter)**” (not what he was, but the faithful, solid “rock” he “will be” with Christ indwelling him.)

CONCLUSION:

—Jesus isn’t calling curious observers or brief tag-alongs. He calls true disciples to follow Him in *Kingdom living* and in *Kingdom building*. —*This is what we were created for!* **We find our true purpose only by finding and following the Truth**. We’re actually in the dismal dark, until we discover who we really are by answering the call of full surrender to Christ, Who is “the way, the truth and the life.” —Knowing true things isn’t enough. We must know Truth the Person! In fact, we may find how little we knew of Him or of ourselves, when we respond to His inviting call of discipleship: “Come and see.”