

Lighthouse Bible Church
August 19th, 2012 Morning
John 1: 35 – 42
‘And they Followed Jesus’

Stand – Read – Pray *scripture reading: Luke 9: 57 - 62*

As we have been looking at the book of John so far, the apostle John has been presenting Jesus as the Word of God, as the Light of the world, as the Word become flesh and dwelling among us, as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and finally as Verse 34 said ‘the Son of God’.

You cannot mistake who Christ is through what John has said so far. All of this was the John’s way of telling the people that Jesus Christ is the long awaited and long prophesied, Messiah, who is the son of God, who is God in human form.

You remember that the message that John the Baptist was sharing while he was baptizing at the Jordan river was one of repentance and forgiveness of sins that the coming Messiah would offer. John the Baptist offered a baptism of water while the Messiah would offer a baptism of the Holy Spirit, a changed heart and life. As we saw last time, John’s baptism was symbolic of what Jesus would do through the Spirit of God.

Well, during John the Baptist’s time of preaching and baptizing in the wilderness, he gained a following of many disciples. And these disciples had been watching and hearing John the Baptist preaching and baptizing and making the way for the coming Messiah.

And now John says ‘He is here, (as he is pointing to Jesus) behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, He is the Son of God, He is the Messiah’.

So now, two of his disciples, after hearing all of this and seeing John point to Jesus as the Messiah, want to find out for themselves and we are introduced to the two disciples in Verses 35 and following.

Verses 35 – 37 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.

He is telling these two disciples, one **being Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother** according to **Verse 40** says and the other, probably John as he doesn’t refer to himself, ever, by name, ‘there He is, there is the Messiah, the Son of God that I have been preaching about and preparing the way for, go follow Him’.

Again, you think about the humility of John the Baptist in doing that and his complete understanding of his subordinate role as the forerunner and proclaimer of one who is greater than he. He doesn’t try to keep his disciples, he points them to the one he was called to proclaim.

John the Baptist did what he was called to do and the only thing left for those who heard and saw Jesus was to follow Jesus. John’s ministry for the most part was finished, he would later be arrested and killed as Jesus comes to the forefront of public ministry and John the Baptist fades from the scene.

Look at **John 3: 27 – 30** *Read – concluding with He must increase and I must ..*

So John and Andrew start following Jesus and He begins to talk with them, look at Verses 38 – 39.

Verses 38 - 39: 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? He said to them, ‘come and see’ so they came and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

Notice that Jesus turns to them and asks them **what do you seek?** Of course, Jesus already knows the answer because He is the all knowing God in human form. He just wants them to acknowledge their reason for following Him.

Because some people, even today, want to follow Jesus but they want to do it on their terms in their own way. They want to follow Jesus but they still want to follow some of the ways of the world. I’ll follow Jesus over here but not over here. I’ll follow Him as long as it doesn’t interfere with what I want over here.

It is like the people in **Luke 9: 57 – 62** who said **Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.** He says in essence, you will have to give up all your comfort for Me because foxes ... He says you will have to give up your inheritance, your desire for wealth and money and let the dead...He says you will have to put Me even above your family, are you willing to do that?

As a matter of fact what did Jesus say in **Mark 8: 34** **whoever desires to come after Me must (what) deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me**

They began to follow Jesus because John the Baptist had been telling them that they needed to believe in Him, they needed to receive Him to become one of God’s children, they needed to repent because Christ was ushering in the kingdom of God, they needed to believe that Christ was the Lamb of God and the only one who could take away their sin.

You see, God used John the Baptist as His instrument to introduce people to Jesus and to tell them their need to repent of sin and trust the Lamb of God for the forgiveness of sin.

Then God moved in the heart of Andrew and the Apostle John to repent and believe the message and to follow Jesus. And implied in that is the recognition of their own sinfulness and their need for a Savior, the Lamb of God, who could forgive their sin and take away their sin and replace it with His own righteousness.

That is the sovereign work of God in bringing someone to the place where they recognize their own sin and can believe the gospel message about Christ, about His dying on the cross for their sins, His burial and subsequent resurrection showing His power over sin and death, and then, by faith, following Him.

And you want to know something, God still uses the same method today. He takes people like you and me and tells us to **go into all the world and preach the gospel to everyone Mark 16: 15 and then **faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God Romans 10: 17 says and then **if they confess with their mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead and call upon the name of the Lord, they will be saved.** And the reason is Romans 10: 10 says **for with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.******

We are going to see the salvation of these two followers of Jesus and several others throughout the book of John. And here we see their response to His question at the end of Verse 38 **they said to Him ‘Rabbi (which is to say when translated, Teacher) where are you staying?’**

They call Jesus by the title, **Rabbi** or teacher or Master and in saying that they were implying ‘we want to be your students, we want to learn from you and follow you’.

By the way, as the writer John does several times through the book of John, he interprets a word or phrase so everyone understands. In this case he interprets Rabbi to a meaning the non-Jewish readers would understand, because the Jews knew exactly what that meant.

We see it in Verse 41, ‘which is translated’, we see it in Verse 42 ‘which is translated’, because some of his readers were non Jewish believers.

The 2 disciples ask Jesus, **where are you staying?** Not so much that they want to know where He is living as it is to say we would like to spend some private time with you to talk with you because we want to become your disciples.

Verse 39: He said to them ‘come and see’ and they came and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour)

They followed Jesus to where He was staying and they remained with Him there the rest of the day. This was a day that would change both Andrew and John forever, so much so that John records the exact time of their meeting with Jesus. He says it was about the **tenth hour** or probably ten in the morning.

The Jewish accounting of time was from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm and back, where the Roman accounting of time was from 12:00 midnight to 12:00 noon and back. So they stayed the entire day with Jesus and probably that night as well.

In Verse 40 we see who one of the disciples was

Verse 40 one of the two who heard John speak and followed Him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. *Andrew means manly*

John introduces **Andrew** as **Simon Peter's brother** because Peter was more widely known than Andrew was at the time John wrote the book of John. Remember it was written some 20 years after Matthew, Mark and Luke.

We know something profound happened to Andrew while he was with Jesus by what he does in Verses 41 and 42.

Verses 41 - 42 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, 'we have found the Messiah' (which is translated the Christ) and he brought him to Jesus...

Somewhere in his conversation with Jesus, Andrew came to believe that Jesus was the **Messiah, the Christ**. Jesus may have done what He did with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in **Luke 24: 27 when He began at Moses and all the Prophets and expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**

Jesus will say later in **John 5: 39 you search the Scriptures for in them you think you have eternal life, and these are they which testify of Me.** However it happened, Andrew was convinced that Jesus was the One, whether He told him directly or however.

You remember, Jesus made it clear to the woman at the well in **John 4: 25 when she says I know that Messiah is coming, who is called Christ, when He comes he will tell us all things.** And you remember what Jesus said to her **I who speak to you am He.** And so, maybe, he told Andrew and John the same thing.

So Andrew goes and tells **his brother** Simon Peter that **we have found the Messiah**, the Christ, the Anointed One, the Coming One, the Deliverer that we have heard about and been taught about.

But it wasn't enough for Andrew to tell Simon Peter about Jesus, He wanted to bring him to Jesus. Shouldn't that be our constant desire too? When we believe and receive Christ for who He is and what He has done and we become born again believers, we too should want to tell others and bring them to Christ as well, through our sharing of the gospel message. Like Philip and Eunuch Verse 42 goes on to say

Verse 42 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)

That word Cephas is also translated as Petros or Peter, or a rock). That is where he gets the name Simon Peter, sometimes he is called Simon, sometimes he is called Peter and sometimes he is called Simon Peter in the scriptures.

But notice that Jesus say; **you are** Simon and, now, **you shall be called** Cephas. In other words, Jesus knows what Simon is like now and He knows what He wants Simon to become; a rock, because Jesus is in the habit of changing people's lives and lifestyles.

When you look at the N.T. and you see Peter; when he is called Simon it is usually when he is in need of correction or rebuke for something that he is saying or doing that is worldly, that was his old self. He was a very impulsive, brash, unstable and needed to be solid and unwavering like a rock.

Do you remember when Jesus said of Peter in **Luke 22: 31 Simon, Simon Satan has desired to sift you as wheat** because Jesus knew of His soon denial of Him. Or in **Mark 14: 37 – 38** where Jesus was in the garden and asked them to pray and he comes back and says **Simon, are you sleeping could you not watch for one hour, watch and pray..** or in **John 21: 15** where He approaches Peter after His resurrection and says **Simon, son of Johah do you love Me more than these?**

When he is called Peter, the rock, he is usually doing or saying something to honor God or further His kingdom. Remember in **Matthew 16: 16 – 18** where Jesus asks His disciples who He is and Peter says ‘you are the Christ, the Son of the living God and Jesus says **and I also say to you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build My church.**

So when Jesus would call him Simon, he would say ‘oh no’ and when He called him Peter he would say ‘yes Lord’. Jesus took an impulsive, brash, wavering man and molded him into a solid rock for God’s kingdom.

Jesus took a very religious, proud, arrogant unsaved man name Saul, which his name means to **ask for** or **desire** or **demand**, and he asked for and desired and demanded the life of all who called themselves Christians. In his arrogance and hypocritical and phony religious life he would say of himself in **Philippians 3: 5 – 6** **circumcised the 8th day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee, concerning zeal, persecuting the church, concerning righteousness which is in the law, blameless.** Jesus turned him into a man named Paul, which means little.

He was a man changed by the power of God to view himself no longer in his demanding arrogant pride but now as the least of all the apostles and willing to **count his own life as rubbish that he may gain Christ. Not having his own righteousness which is from the law but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith as Philippians 3: 7 – 9** goes on to say.

Do you want to know something? If you are a born again believer here this morning then you know that your salvation was in the plan of God from the foundation of the world, right? And because of that, God is saying to you, **you are** so and so and now **you shall be called** one of my children, so live like it.

You, who were dead in trespasses and sins shall now be made alive in Christ. You, who were proud and arrogant and unbelieving shall now be humbled and abased and full of faith.

You who had hatred and anger and lust in your heart shall now be a person of love and compassion and selflessness. Only Jesus can do that

You see, because God knows each of us who are His own and because He knows when a sparrow falls to the ground and we are of more value than they, and because He knows the very numbers of hairs on your head, and because He knows your thoughts before you ever think them and your words before you ever say them, He can say to each one of us 'you were so and so and now you shall be called one of My children'

And aren't their times in our life when we, like Peter, need to be called Simon because of something we thought, or said or did that displeased Christ, and we need to be admonished. Because, whom the Lord loves He (what) chastens and for us it may be through the Word of God as you hear it taught, or in your own personal Bible study time where you are convicted of something or the Holy Spirit brings something to your mind that you said or did or didn't say or do that you needed to confess as sin, or whatever?

Just know this, like Peter and the Apostle Paul and any person who belongs to Christ, He is constantly molding and shaping us into His image, into His likeness. He knows our weaknesses, He knows our strengths, He knows where we can potentially fall through temptation, He knows all about us and we have the confidence, just as He molded Simon into Peter the rock, **He who began a good work in you will (what) complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1: 6** says.

Closing prayer

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Introduction and Review:

Verses 35 – 37 They Followed Jesus

John 3: 27 – 30

Verses 38 – 39 What do you Seek

Luke 9: 57 – 62, Mark 8: 34, Mark 16: 15
Romans 10: 10, 17

Verses 40 – 42 We have found the Messiah

Luke 24: 27, John 5: 39, John 4: 25
Luke 22: 31, Mark 14: 37 – 38, John 21: 15
Matthew 16: 16 – 18, Philippians 3: 5 – 9
Philippians 1: 6

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