

Food for thought from the Gospel of John

1 – 8 Following Jesus

Read John 1:35-51

In John 1:1-34 we have been given a strong foundation about who Jesus is and what he means to us. Jesus is the Eternal, Divine Word of God. He is the true Light that lights every man. He is the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He is the Son of God. John the Apostle wrote these things, often quoting John the Baptist. In this portion, that we just read, John will show us Jesus speaking for Himself.

We will focus on some operative words and phrases that show us what to do with Jesus Christ.

John 1:35-37 – “Behold”

Yet again, John the Baptist will point to Jesus and tell two of his disciples to “*Behold the Lamb of God.*” Beholding the Lamb of God involves careful observation. Note John 6:40. Jesus said that everyone who “*sees*” the Son, and believes on Him, will have everlasting life. The Greek word for “*Sees*” means to *observe and note detail.*” Salvation is not a matter of nodding along to a few catchy phrases. Salvation is not for those who are just playing a “name-dropping” game.

It is to be noted that these two disciples left John the Baptist and began to follow Jesus. This “*Lamb of God*” that they followed is One who would do something great for them – and for us all. He would sacrifice Himself for His people. He would bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18).

John 1:38-39 – Come and See

Jesus saw them following / pursuing Him. He asked them, “*What are you seeking?*” They requested to know where He lived (*strange question*). So, he invited them to “*Come and see.*” He showed them and spent a lot of time with them.

- Are you really seeking to know the Lord, or to just know something about Him?
- Do you know what you are looking for, or are you just curious?
- Do you want a close and intimate look at the Lord? – Or do you just want a glance to satisfy your curiosity?

Knowing Christ is not just a quick sale over-the-phone. His call to “*Come and see*” is a personal invitation to be with Him.

John 1:40-42, 45-46 – Bring them to Jesus... tell them to “Come and See”

Andrew brought his brother Peter to meet Jesus. Philip invited Nathanael to “*Come and see.*” These were personal invitations from followers of Jesus to others. These were invitations to **come** join us in a living, personal relationship with Jesus – not to **go** and see Jesus, on your own, as a mere intellectual and philosophical pursuit. See I John 1:1-3. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus to which you could invite other people to join you?

Religious institutions have failed in many ways. But over-reaction has caused many to have the concept of an isolated and independent version of Christianity. Some are like free agents, going from here to there and just doing their own thing. Either way, they fail to make a commitment to follow Christ in a sincere (but not perfect) local church (Hebrews 10:24-25).

John 1:43 – “Follow Me”

Christ’s call to follow Him is a call to a relationship that is stable, but not stagnant. To know Christ is a progressive, forward-moving relationship.

Note John 1:47-51 – Jesus made a reference to Jacob’s s spiritual journey in Genesis 28:12. In a dream, Jacob saw a ladder (stairway) going from earth to heaven. God’s angels were ascending and descending on it. Jesus’ statement is a metaphor in which Christ, the Son of Man, is like that ladder (stairway), bridging between God and man (John 14:6; I Timothy 2:5). Nathanael and the other disciples will have increasing knowledge, insight, and power from heaven (John 1:49 cp. Matthew 16:16-17). See Proverbs 4:18.

Is Jesus your stairway to heaven?

**Are you growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?
(II Peter 3:18)**