

## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN | John 1:35-51

### INTRODUCTION

*14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* John 1:14 ESV

I fully believe that the Gospel of John was written so that we could have spiritual eyes to see the glory of the Son of God. So as I preach through this Gospel, my decisions about what to communicate to you are made by this: *What in this text is going to show the glory of Jesus, and how will seeing his glory in this way give you grace?*

### I. FOLLOWING JESUS

**35 The next day John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 His disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.** John 1:35-37 ESV

The goal of John the Baptist's ministry is make Jesus famous at the cost of his own popularity. John's disciples are beginning to leave him in order to follow Jesus instead. This is incredibly humbling. His disciples and ministry are disappearing. The point of his ministry was to call our attention to the superiority of Jesus.

We must understand that following Jesus is not heroic. We don't follow him the way the Knights of the Round Table followed King Arthur in order to serve and protect him. Rather, we follow Jesus the way sheep follow a shepherd. We follow Jesus because we need to be served and protected. We need our sins to be forgiven. We are weak, and he is strong. We are foolish, and he is wise. We are wicked, and he is holy. We are poor, and he is rich. We are ugly, and he is beautiful.

*17 "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."* Mark 2:17 ESV

The reason these two disciples of John left him and followed Jesus was because Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away sin. These two men are sinners. Jesus is the sin-remover.

**38 Jesus 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."** John 1:38-39a ESV

Often in the Gospel of John we will see people talking about physical things, and Jesus using their language to lead them into spiritual things. So when Jesus asks these two men what they are seeking, he is asking them something much deeper than they are aware of. There were plenty of people who sought after Jesus, but many of these people sought him for wrong reasons.

*25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" 26 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."* John 6:25-27 ESV

Jesus responds by saying, "Come and you will see." At the physical level he means that they will see where he is staying, but on a spiritual level he means that if these two men will truly come to him, they will be given true spiritual sight.

**39 He said to them, "Come and see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus 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).** John 1:39-41 ESV

At first, these two men merely wanted to know where Jesus was staying, but because they came to him and spent time with him, their spiritual eyes were open. If you come to Jesus, you see. If you come to him in hopes of finding a savior and master you will never be disappointed.

## II. YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

**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." 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!" John 1:45-49 ESV**

When Philip said to Nathaniel that Jesus was from Nazareth, Nathaniel answered bluntly by saying "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Jesus responds to this brash statement by saying, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Jesus means that Nathaniel is someone who tells it like it is. He may be rude and immature, but at least he's not two-faced. Jesus is not saying that Nathaniel is sinless, but that at least he's not coy, or deceitful. Jesus knew all this about Nathaniel before he ever even met him.

For the Christian, there is something immensely encouraging about the fact that Jesus intimately knows each of our hearts. It is an incredible comfort to know that Jesus understands each of our unique fears and sorrows, that nobody else can truly share. Jesus completely and perfectly understands.