

- I) V35-42 INTRO: Again the next day John stood with two of his disciples
- II) John had baptized Jesus, and after His baptism Jesus had gone into the wilderness
Mk and Mt tell us He was in the wilderness for forty days, and was tempted by the devil
Make these stones into bread; jump from the pinnacle; worship me!
- III) After His time in the wilderness, Jesus has once again come to where John was
Once again, John makes it clear that Jesus is the Lamb of God
- IV) As a man of God, John was careful not to secure credit or glory for himself
He was careful to direct people to *Jesus*, and was careful not to steal glory for himself
John knew he was sent to point people to Jesus, and was faithful to do so
- V) Now, we see John direct two of his disciples to Jesus
- VI) These two men become the first two Christian converts
The Christian church began in a very simple and basic way: two men followed Jesus
- VII) V40 Reveals: One of the disciples was a man named Andrew
Church tradition holds that the other disciple was John, the writer of this gospel
These verses have the earmark of an eyewitness (*John stood, looking* at Jesus V35-36)
- VIII) V36 Once again, John says *Behold* the Lamb of God! (V29) pointing them to Jesus
- IX) V37 The two disciples heard him speak and they *followed* Jesus
FOLLOWED: A permanent relationship; a one time for all time decision
It does not say that John told them to follow Him, but that they simply followed
- X) John came preparing people for Jesus, and these two responded immediately
- XI) John's disciples were adequately prepared for action
They heard and followed: They *understood* John's meaning and *acted* on what he said
- XII) These men were adequately prepared by John to follow Jesus
John had fulfilled his mission of pointing them to Jesus and they followed Him
- XIII) V38 Then Jesus turned and seeing them following said to them *What do you seek?*
- XIV) It is interesting to note that these are the first words that Jesus speaks, in John
His first question to would be followers is a simple one: what do you seek
What are you looking for? How can I be of help to you? Reveal your heart to Me

- I) He asks this because people often seek *things* for personal satisfaction and fulfillment
Are you looking for security? A career, finances, power, fame or position
Are you looking for something that will enable you to live with yourself or at peace
Are you looking for a relationship, love, or fulfillment: What are you looking for?
- II) They need to understand that what they are seeking for will be satisfied in Him
Only He can fully satisfy their deepest inner longings
Jm 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.
- III) V38 They answer: Rabbi, where are you staying?
We do not want this to be a chance encounter, a simple conversation on the road
We desire to spend time with You, to speak to You and to know You
- IV) V39 He said to them *come and see* (He gives them an invitation)
These are Jesus second words recorded by John
He gives these men and invitation to follow Him, no longer being blind
- V) Jesus' invitation is more literally "Come immediately, and *you will see*"
- VI) You are spiritually blind, but when you come to Me *you will see*
I will reveal to you things that only I can open up to you
1 Co 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- VII) V39 They came and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day now it
It was about 4 p.m. This is when men began to leave their working for the day
They were not anxious to leave and remained with Him, learning from Him
- VIII) V40-42 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him was Andrew Simon
We do not know much about Andrew, but what we know is impressive
- IX) **FIRST:** John presents him as one bringing people to Jesus: He brings his brother to Him
Jn 6:8-9 The boy with the five barley loaves and two fish
Jn 12:20-22 Greeks looking for Jesus
Evangelism, especially to family and friends, is a natural byproduct of conversion
- X) **SECOND:** He is relatively unknown, although he was an apostle
He is often simply identified as Peter's brother

- I) Mt 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.
Mt 10:2 The names of the 12 apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, *and Andrew his brother*
- II) People might not know Andrew, but everybody knew his brother
Though he brought Peter to the Lord, his brother's ministry far surpassed his own
I will develop this later
- III) V42 Now when Jesus looked at him He said You are Simon the son of Jonah You shall be
- IV) Jesus stared intently at him, not only looking at his outer appearance, but his heart
The name Simon means, "to hear", and carries a connotation of hearing and doing
Cephas means a stone, or a rock
- V) V42 You are Simon, and your natural father is a man named Jonah
You will be similar to Jonah, running from your call, but you will come back
- VI) I will completely transform you, and shall have a new name revealing your character
Your new name will be emblematic of your new life: 2 Co 5:17
- VII) Simon, you have a name that speaks of hearing, and obeying
You shall live up to such a name, and become a living stone in the church
- VIII) Peter went through many things that ultimately made him into this man of stone
Trials often produce strength of character: When endured they produce love for Jesus
1 Pe 1:6-8 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love
- IX) V43-45 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee and He found Philip and said to
The day after He spoke to these men He desired to take a trip up north, to Galilee
- X) INTERESTINGLY: Andrew and the others had approached him
- XI) Now He takes the initiative and finds Philip and says to him *Follow Me*
- XII) He now calls Philip to follow Him, as a full time disciple
He goes to Galilee, and issues this call to him as He has arrived in the region
(V45) He lived in Bethsaida (house of fishermen) just northeast of the Sea of Galilee

- I) There is no explanation of how He knew Philip, or had met him: just that He is calling him
It would seem that Philip was acquainted with Jesus
- II) The bible really does not give us much information concerning Philip
He is from Bethsaida, and was a friend of Nathanael's
Bethsaida is a village just north of the Sea of Galilee
- III) In Jn 6 Jesus will ask him a question concerning how they can feed 5,000 men
Philip answered 2000 denarii would not be enough to feed so many
- IV) In Jn 12:22 Greeks seeking Jesus came to him, so he took Andrew with him to tell Jesus
- V) One event stands out (Jn 14:1-9)
- VI) Some of the apostles were men of extraordinary abilities and character
To this day, there are Christians of intellect, eloquence, education, and personality
God has many champions who have extraordinary abilities, and always has
- VII) Philip seems to be simply ordinary, but Jesus has use for faithful, ordinary people
- VIII) **ORDINARY PEOPLE:** Are the ones most frequently used to reach people with the gospel
Sunday school teacher Edward Kimball led a young shoe salesman named D.L. Moody to Christ. D. L. Moody went on to become one of the greatest evangelists in his day. Moody went to England and influenced F.B. Meyer. F.B. Meyer influenced J. Wilbur Chapman. Chapman helped in the ministry of converted baseball player Billy Sunday, who impacted Mordacai Ham. Mordacai Ham, holding a revival in North Carolina, led Billy Graham to Christ. And the man who started it all was a Sunday school teacher, Edward Kimball, who took seriously Christ's commission to be a witness in his world. We all know the incredible way God used Billy Graham to reach millions of people worldwide with the gospel.
You and I are not too likely to ever become a D.L. Moody, Billy Sunday, or a Billy Graham, but every single one of us can be an "Edward Kimball" and witness for Christ.
- IX) V45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him *we have found Him* of whom Moses in the law
Notice how it says Jesus said to Philip, *follow Me* but Philip says *We have found Him*
He includes himself in a group of people who have trusted in Jesus
- X) When you become a Christian, you become part of a group, a family of believers
1 Co 12:13-14 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.
This really spoke to me when I was saved: I was part of a huge family of Christians

- I) V45 We have found Him of whom Moses in *the law* and also *the prophets wrote*
- II) He is not simply feeling that Jesus is the Messiah, but is combining it with scripture
The law: The first five books of Moses, speaking of the seed of the woman, that should break the serpent's head; as the seed of Abraham, in whom all nations should be blessed
The prophets wrote of his birth of a virgin; of the place of his birth, Bethlehem; of his sufferings and the glory, that would follow; of his resurrection, his ascension to heaven, and his being seated at the right hand of God; and of many things relating to his person, office, and work
- III) Jesus is presented as the One fulfilling what Moses and prophets wrote about
- IV) V46 And Nathanael said to him Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Philip said to Nazareth had a poor reputation: There is a certain disdain that comes out of Nathanael Part of the reason may be because it was a small town, consisting of around 50 houses
- V) We do see something of the people of Nazareth in how they later treated Jesus
Mk 6:5-6 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. *He was amazed at their lack of faith.* Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village
Lu 4:29 (The people in the synagogue) rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff
- VI) V46 Philip said to him *Come and see*
Philip could not change Nathanael's mind, so he invites him to check it out
He knew that if Nathanael saw Jesus for himself, that Jesus was enough for him
Ps 34:8 Oh, *taste and see* that the LORD *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!
- VII) V47 Jesus saw Nathanael *coming toward Him* and said of Him Behold an Israelite indeed
In spite of his reservations, Nathanael went with Philip to investigate
- VIII) Jesus surprises him: Here is a pure, true son of Israel, not just in name only but in heart
This man has uprightness and integrity, being free of hypocrisy, and candid
He not only was a descendant of Abraham, but was like him
- IX) V48 Nathanael said to Him How do you know me
Jesus reveals supernatural knowledge by naming Philip, and what Nathanael was doing
- X) V48 NOTICE: When you were under the fig tree, I saw you
The fig tree often was a place of meditation and prayer

- I) **Jews saw a fig tree as a symbol of their homes, and the security they possessed**
Micah 4:4 Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken
- II) **Nathanael may have been eating, or spending time with family and friends**
He may have simply been under the shade of his tree, relaxing
- III) **It is more likely that he was praying**
He was not on a street corner, to be seen by men but did so in private
Instead, in the integrity of his heart he was making his petitions known to God
- IV) **Though he was praying privately, he was seen by Jesus**
- V) **TODAY: This kind of experience with Jesus often happens in church services**
God's word is being given, and our hearts are revealed
1 Co 14:24-25 If all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on *his* face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.
Ps 44:21 He knows the secrets of the heart.
- VI) **V49 Nathanael answered and said to Him Rabbi You are the son of God You are the king**
As a true Israelite, he is recognizing Jesus as his true King, and the Messiah
Whatever the prayer of his heart had been, Jesus obviously answered it
- VII) **V50 Jesus answered and said to him because I said to you I saw you under the fig tree**
He is the first person in this gospel to be said to believe in Jesus
You have been impressed by My knowledge of you, you have not seen anything yet
- VIII) **V51 And He said to him most assuredly I say to you hereafter you shall see heaven open**
- IX) **This is reminiscent of something that happened in the Old Testament**
Gen 28:12-13 (Jacob) dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants
- X) **I connect heaven and earth: it is only through Me that people can enter into Heaven**