

# Bill & Kipp's Excellent Bible Adventure

John - **Episode 8** - John 1: 35-51 - Calling of Disciples

- I. Rabbi/Disciple - The relationship of rabbi to disciple is not just of teacher to student. A disciple chooses to live life in the pattern and way of the rabbi, and live life near the rabbi.
- A. John 1:38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" What do you think the disciples were looking for?
  - B. Matthew 26: 25 records, "Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so." Have you ever known someone who followed Jesus to turn, and even betray Jesus? What caused their change of mind? Why do you think Judas chose to?
  - C. Andrew had been a disciple of John, but when John announced that Jesus was the "lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," Andrew walked away and essentially said, "Been nice knowing ya, John." Considering John the Baptist's words in John 3:30, "He must become greater; I must become less," how do you think John would have responded or felt?
  - D. To follow Jesus, the disciples walked away from their businesses. Have you ever felt called by God to do something that is not logical but it just never stops calling you?
- II. Nazareth - When hearing Jesus was from the tiny hamlet of Nazareth that likely had fewer than 150 people, Nathaniel asked, "Can anything good from Nazareth?"
- A. If you are from a small, unknown town (or even your state), have you ever experienced the kind of prejudice that Nathaniel had for someone like Jesus? How have you handled it?
  - B. Why do you think God chose for Jesus to come from such humble beginnings?
- III. Name Change - There are several times in the Bible that God or Jesus changed a person's name.
- A. Did you experience as a child someone who gave you a nickname that stuck? Why were you given that title?

B. Look at the following examples and speculate on why God or Jesus chose to change their names at the moment that it happened? How did God use these people for great purposes?

1. “You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram, your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you” (Genesis 17:4-6).
2. “God also said to Abraham, ‘As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her” (Genesis 17:15-16).
3. Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome” (Genesis 32:22-28).
4. “Jesus looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas’ (which, when translated, is Peter)” (John 1:42). “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:18-19).

IV. What are you Searching For? - John 1:38 reads, “When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”

- A. If you take a step back, what in life would you say that you are searching for? What “wrong trucks” have you chased in life, not realizing that you were needing something spiritual?
- B. Have you ever realized that you were climbing to the top of the ladder and succeeded, only to realize it was against the wrong wall?