Walking, Witnessing, and Winning
John 1:35-42

Walking With Jesus
35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; **36** And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! **37** And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

Living to be in Position
- The day after John interacted with Jesus, the Messiah, and testified of Him, he walked with John the Apostle and Andrew.
- Andrew and John the Apostle hungered for the Word of God and placed themselves in a position to hear His preaching.
- Do you have a hunger for the righteousness that drives you to put yourself in a position to hear the Word preached?

Looking at His Practice
- As John walked with his disciples behind Jesus, he focused on Jesus and admired His majesty.
- As they watched Jesus, John the Baptist said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"
    - John 1:29 – The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
- Behold expresses the importance of the following words.
    - Hebrews 12:2 – Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- "The Lamb of God" emphasizes Jesus' exemplary status.
- John focused more on pointing others to Jesus than on building a large following for himself.
- John knew that building a following for himself would fail when he died, but pointing people to the Lamb of God would last eternally
    - 1 Peter 1:18-19 – **18** Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; **19** But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:
- Have you accepted the message of Christ who has come to take away the sins of the world?

Longing to be in His Presence
- Notice that after Jesus was preached as the Messiah and Lamb of God, John's disciples stopped following him and began following Jesus.
- The word followed is used in the tense that means they followed Jesus and committed to continue following Him.
    - John 8:12 – Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*
- John's disciples decided to follow Christ because John watched Jesus and testified to those he walked with.

- When one has their eyes opened to Jesus, they should leave all that is before them and faithfully follow Jesus and Him alone.
- Are you following Jesus?

Witnessing Jesus

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, *What seek ye?* They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? **39** He saith unto them, *Come and see.* They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

Evidence of Compassion

- Jesus turning to those following Him pictures His desire to see men changed from death to life.
    - Luke 15:20 – *And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*
- Jesus' turning expresses His openness to those who desire to follow Him.

Expression in Confession

- Jesus desires your heart, so He asks what you intend when you follow Him. Notice the question is open-ended, rather than merely yes or no.
    - Matthew 11:28-30 – **28** *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* **29** *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.* **30** *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*
- The two new disciples answered simply and asked where Jesus was staying, implying they wanted to spend more time with Him than a conversation on the road would allow.
- You do not need complexity to gain the attention of the Messiah, only vulnerability.
    - Acts 17:27 – That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:
    - Deuteronomy 4:29 – But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find *him*, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.
    - Isaiah 55:6 – Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, Call ye upon him while he is near:
    - Jeremiah 29:13 – And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Exercise in Conviction

- Jesus responded with an invitation rather than a direct answer.
- The invitation Jesus offered was immediate.
    - Isaiah 1:18 – Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.
    - Revelation 22:17 – And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.
- The disciples had to exercise faith to receive the answer to their question, “Come and See.”

    - 2 Corinthians 6:2 – (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)
    - Psalm 69:13 – But as for me, my prayer *is* unto thee, O Lord, *in* an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.
- Though it is easier to see and then believe, biblical faith is flipped. One is to believe and then see the evidence of the Messiah.
    - 2 Corinthians 4:6 – For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
    - 1 Peter 2:9-10 – **9** But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: **10** Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.
- When the new disciples came and saw where Jesus was staying, they intentionally listened to learn from his spiritual wisdom.
    - John 1:12 – But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:
    - Romans 10:13 – For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
    - Luke 9:23 – And he said to them all, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

Winning for Jesus

40 One of the two which heard John *speak*, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. **41** He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. **42** And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, *Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas,* which is by interpretation, A stone.

Finding Those in Need

- Evangelism must begin at home.
- In the moment that Andrew was made aware of the good news, he had a heart for those who would benefit from the same change.
- Andrew began to witness and spent his next three years perfecting that skill.
    - Matthew 4:19 – And he saith unto them, *Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*
    - Luke 19:10 – *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*
    - John 20:21 – Then said Jesus to them again, *Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*
    - Jude 22-23 – **22** And of some have compassion, making a difference: **23** and others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

    - Proverbs 11:30 – The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; And he that winneth souls *is* wise.
    - Daniel 12:3 – And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Fix For Those Needs

- Andrew's excitement at finding Peter came from having a message to share.
- Surely he had brought him news about the fishing business to help them professionally, but no message could help like the message of Jesus.

Foundation of Those Needs

- Peter's interaction with Christ brought about change.
    - 2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
- When Jesus looked at Peter, He looked deeper than his outward appearance by looking intimately into his heart.
    - John 2:25 – And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.
    - Luke 12:2 – *For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.*
    - Jeremiah 23:24 – Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.
- Jesus saw Peter's potential and changed everything about him.
    - Ephesians 2:1 – And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
    - 1 Peter 1:23 – Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.
    - Ezekiel 36:26 – A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.