

What do you (truly) want??

John 1:35-51

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Introduction

"There are many ways to encounter Jesus but there is only One way to encounter God and that's through Jesus!"

- John 14:6 Jesus SAID I am THE way, the truth and the life, NO ONE comes to the Father except through me.
- Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Our community - blessings, competition, envy, even jealousy

The closer we get to one another, the greater the potential for comparison / competition / envy. we even start comparing and envying other peoples spiritual walks. man, I wish I could speak like so and so, or share my faith and be bold. To be fair NOT all this is BAD.

This morning I want to step outside of our community / Center City family and begin to look at another community to see their differences and how they all encountered Jesus so similarity and yet so uniquely.

1. HOW PEOPLE COME TO FOLLOW JESUS

- a. the proclamation of a friend John 1:35-40
 - i. v.37 And when the two disciples heard him (JOHN) say this, they followed Jesus.
 - ii. Samaritan women: John 4:42 They said to the woman, "We now believe not only because of your words; we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man truly is the Savior of the world."
- b. the invitation of a friend John 1:44-46
 - i. Invitation is TO Christ!
- c. The hesitation of the heart John 1:47-51
 - i. Your doubts aren't as strong as the saving arms of Christ. He is mighty to save! He is stronger!

2. MAIN POINT

- a. No doubt the disciples struggled with envy / comparison as well... We aren't the first! IN FACT the book ends with this in the last chapter 21: 20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them. He was the one who had

leaned back against Jesus at the supper to ask, "Lord, who is going to betray You?" 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

- b. GAZE AND GLANCE?
- c. Before you gaze on Christ- HE SEES you! Before you pursue JESUS, know this, HE IS PURSUING YOU! Before you follow Him - HE's coming for you!
- d. "God is always previous. In practice, however, (that is, where God's previous working meets man's present response) man must pursue God. - TOZIER
- e. Scarcity mindset that says if God gives to others, HE has less to give to me! If God is looking to others He isn't looking at you!
- f. V.29 Jesus COMING TOWARDS JOHN
- g. V.38 JESUS turned and SAW them following and said to them, what are you seeking??
- h. V.42 Jesus LOOKED AT SIMON PETER - Renames Him!
- i. V.43 Jesus FOUND PHILIP and SAID to him follow me!
- j. V.47 Jesus SAW Nathanael
- k. Jesus SAW them: 2300 theáomai (from tháomai, "to gaze at a spectacle") – properly, gaze on (contemplate) as a spectator; to observe intently, especially to interpret something (grasp its significance); to see (concentrate on) so as to significantly impact (influence) the viewer.
- l. The antidote for comparison / jealousy / envy is GOD'S INTENT / DEEP GAZE UPON YOU...

3. HOW GOD COMES TO HIS PEOPLE

- a. God is PERSONAL in His pursuit of us!
 - i. To John / Andrew: Jesus asks "what are you seeking"... what do you want ...
 - ii. To Peter: Jesus looked at him and RENAMES Him...
 - iii. To Philip: he is simple and direct... He commands him, follow me...
 - iv. To Nathanael: He engages his questions / his religiousness, shows off his omnipresence!
 - v. Some of you are
 - vi. Doers: God comes through service / doing (Yes you need to know what it means to be a human BEING not a human doing first, but know that God comes through service.
 - vii. INTELLECTUAL / WORD people: God comes through that.
 - viii. MORAL / RELIGIOUSLY BENT
 - ix. FREEDOM: You know want to know FREEDOM / bind yourself the most FREE PERSON and be free in Him!!
 - x. EMOTIONAL: God comes through being emotional with you.
 - xi. COMPETITIVE:
 - xii. Be a sanctified version of yourself
 - xiii. **God comes to you in ways that HE has created!**
- b. God is partnered in His pursuit of us...
 - i. God uses John the Baptist to cause others to follow Christ.
 - ii. God uses Andrew to cause Peter follow Christ

- iii. God uses Philip to cause Nathaniel follow Christ.
- iv. This is called discipleship - But lets be clear We are all disciples of JESUS through discipling one another...
- v. God uses YOU to cause _____ to follow Christ.
- vi. *Romans 10: 14How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*
- c. God pursues us through our PASSIONS
 - i. *v38Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.*
 - ii. What the disciples were asking for was simply this: we want to make our home where are you make your home Jesus!
 - iii. You probably think that your LONGINGS / DESIRES / WANTS / PASSIONS ARE COUNTER CHRIST! At the heart of your desires (even some with a sinful veneer) is to make your home with Jesus! This is evidence of true conversion!
 - iv. *"Let me tell you what you are seeking, whether you know it or not. You are seeking for rest for your heart, a home for your spirits; you are seeking for perfect truth for your understandings, perfect beauty for your affections, perfect goodness for your conscience. You are seeking for all these three, gathered into one white beam of light, and you are seeking for it all in a Person. "- COMMENTARY ON JOHN*
 - v. Share personal desire list...

4. CONCLUSION / RESPONSE

- a. "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." - Augustine
- b. Make a list in response of "what you want on one side / who you want Christ for on the other"