

## The Invitation to See and Stay John 1:29-51

### John 1:29

[29] *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

**"The effect of this chronological shift [by John] is to align Jesus' death with the slaughter of the Passover lambs, a point underscored when John tells the reader that the Roman soldiers did not break the legs of Jesus on the cross."** – Richard B. Hays, *Echoes of Scripture in the Gospels*, 316.

### Isaiah 53:4-7

[4] *Yet he [the Spirit-filled servant figure] himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains; but we in turn regarded him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. [5] But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. [6] We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished him for the iniquity of us all. [7] He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers, he did not open his mouth*

***All of the biblical story - from its fairly explicit prophecies to the implicit metaphors and images - is putting on flesh in the God-man Jesus.***

### John 1:30-39

[30] *"This is the one I told you about: 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.' [31] I didn't know him, but I came baptizing with water so he might be revealed to Israel."* [32] *And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he rested on him. [33] I didn't know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The one you see the Spirit descending and resting on -- he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' [34] I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."* [35] *The next day, John was standing with two of his disciples. [36] When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" [37] The two disciples heard him say this and followed Jesus. [38] When Jesus turned and noticed them following him, he asked them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which means 'Teacher'), "where are you staying?" [39] "Come and you'll see," he replied. So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.*

Concerning Discipleship:

1. Before we follow Jesus, we hear a testimony to Jesus.
2. Discipleship begins by personally following Jesus.
3. Discipleship is a response to Jesus' invitation.
4. Discipleship is primarily about staying with Jesus.

**"The Gospel teaches us that the bottom line in thinking about discipleship has something to do with this staying."** – Rowan Williams, *Being Disciples*, 2.

#### John 1:40-51

*[40] Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John and followed him. [41] He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated "the Christ"), [42] and he brought Simon to Jesus. When Jesus saw him, he said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated "Peter"). [43] The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and told him, "Follow me." [44] Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter. [45] Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the law (and so did the prophets): Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth." [46] "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Nathanael asked him. "Come and see," Philip answered. [47] Then Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." [48] "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you," Jesus answered. [49] "Rabbi," Nathanael replied, "You are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel!" [50] Jesus responded to him, "Do you believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." [51] Then he said, "Truly I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

5. Followers of Jesus multiply by inviting others to see and stay with Jesus.

#### John 4:39-42

*[39] Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of what the woman said when she testified, "He told me everything I ever did." [40] So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. [41] Many more believed because of what he said. [42] And they told the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world."*

**"In love God has self-revealed in Christ, the world's light, in order to 'sweep' people into the very life of God."** – Michael J. Gorman, *Abide and Go*, 46.