

John-3
“Known, Loved & Chosen”
John 1:35-51 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first-time guests and those who are worshiping with us online!

We're in the Gospel of John, and John tells us that the reason he's writing this book is so that those of us who are reading it will believe in Jesus! In other words, believe in Who Jesus is, and then place your trust in Him...

31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

-Jn 20:31 (NIV)

That's what God wants for every single person!

That we would all believe in Jesus and have eternal life through Him! Today we're going to finish John Chapter one, and for the first time, we're going to hear from Jesus...And no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, I believe that the Word of God is going to speak to you today!

John 1:35-51 (NIV)

Now I can't help but notice the different titles that are given to Jesus in these verses...

Vs 35 "The Lamb of God"

Vs 37 "Rabbi" (Teacher)

Vs 41 "The Messiah" (Christ; Anointed One)

Vs 44 "The one Moses wrote about in the Law"

"The one the Prophets also wrote"

"Jesus of Nazareth"

Vs 49 "The Son of God"

The King of Israel"

Vs 51 "The Son of Man"

Jesus is all of these and so much more...and although He doesn't say a lot...it doesn't mean that He doesn't have a lot to say!

We're going to look at a few of Jesus' statements and no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, I believe that the Living Word the Logos is going to speak to you through the written Word...Are you ready to receive the Word of God today?

Pray

So the first thing that John records Jesus saying is actually a question, and it's a question for all of us to think about...

What do you **WANT?**"

Now we have a thing here in New York...we don't like anyone walking up on us...it's a survival instinct that we develop...

We don't trust anyone...so we have to turn off our NY for a minute...Jesus wasn't asking them if they had a problem...like "What do you want...you want some of this? You talkin to me?"

That's not His tone...He's saying "Hey what do you want?"

In other words, what are you seeking...what are you looking for? What do you want? That's a deep question isn't it?

What do people want? They want success, they want money, they want power, they want security, they want comfort, they want to find happiness, purpose, and meaning in life...

Maybe you're here today and you're wondering "Why am I here?" "What's the meaning of all of this?" "What is my purpose?" "Is there something more?"

The reality is that our purpose isn't found in things...it's found in Jesus! Stop pursuing things and start pursuing Jesus!

Maybe you're here or you're watching online and you're seeking...you're interested...you've got lot's of questions...You can bring them all to Jesus!

Jesus is asking you "What do you want?"

Now these two disciples of John the Baptist... one of them is named Andrew but the other one has no name...most scholars believe that this other guy is John the Apostle...the author of the Gospel of John...Who becomes Jesus' best friend

When Jesus asks them that question they say, Rabbi...we just want to follow you! We don't have it all figured out yet, and we've got a ton of questions...but we were following John the Baptist and he keeps pointing us to You!

We just want to be with You, and learn from You, and walk with You...What they're saying is we want to be Your disciple...

4 The one thing I ask of the Lord—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple.-Ps 27:4 (NLT)

That's why we're spending 21 days in prayer and fasting...we're seeking His face, so we can get closer to Him!

The Bible tells us “Come close to God and He will come close to you” **James 4:8**

Jeremiah said...“If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me” **Je 29:13**

Jesus is asking you “What do you want?” As you wrestle with that question,

I want to encourage you to take your next step and just start following Jesus...How do I do that?

Look at the next thing Jesus says...

Come and you will **SEE**

Andrew and John are searching for truth, hungry to know more about God, and notice that Jesus doesn't push them away...He invites them to hang out with Him...

To come and see

He doesn't make them take a test first...He says look it's almost dinner time, why don't you two come hang out with Me for a little while?

Jesus invites them to get to know Him! When we think of the word "discipleship" our mind goes to Bible studies and doctrinal classes...

Those things are part of being a follower of Jesus, but discipleship is really about relationships. Our relationship with Jesus, and our relationship with each other...

It looks like this...

You're living your life as a Christian and you invite other people to come and have a relationship with you...a friendship with you...

And as you do life together...go to work, go to school, go to the gym, walk the dog, get a chopped cheese...whatever it is you do...

As you live out your life, the people you're hanging out with see there's something different about you...and they want to know how everything in your life seems to be falling apart at the moment but you're not...

Come, and you will see...

***5 Come and see what our God has done,
what awesome miracles he performs for
people!-Ps 66:5 (NLT)***

The big idea is that we grow when we do life together...

Joe & Abi

Come and you will see...

Sammy

Come and you will see...

As followers of Jesus, we sometimes forget how different our lives look to the rest of the world...

Maybe you've been wondering how God can use you...

You're thinking I'm not sure what I have to offer...You may not understand what God has already done in your life...

You may not realize how different your life is because of Jesus...

But when people see you holding hands with your spouse...praying at a restaurant before your meal...forgiving a person who hurt you...that leaves an impact...it lights up the darkness...they want to know why...Come and you will see!

Some of you are following Jesus today, because someone invited you to come and see...You were invited to church, you were invited to Bible Study, you were invited to a dinner or a retreat...

Some of you met Jesus in spectacular ways...You were in jail, you were in rehab...

You had a near death experience...Others of you met Jesus through normal everyday relationships...

Maybe you're here and you've been saved for as long as you can remember...You had parents that taught you about Jesus, brought you to church, brought you to Youth...

Others of you had a brother or a sister tell you about Jesus...that's what Andrew does!

Andrew goes and tells his brother Simon...hey you've got to meet this guy! Philip goes and finds his friend Nathanael and brings him to meet Jesus

You see, there's only one way to God and that's through Jesus...but there's many ways to Jesus!

If you're a Christian think about the people who have invited you into their life...What did you learn from them? How did you grow together?

Now think about this...who can you invite into your life? What can they learn from you? When we do this, we're being like Jesus!

Now, If you're here or you're watching online and you're searching your next step is "come and see"

Jesus is inviting you to come as you are...Come with your questions and your doubts, come with your baggage...

Jesus doesn't require people to change first... He's not inviting you into a religion...He's inviting you into a relationship...come and you will see...He invites you to belong even before you believe...Just come...

Come and see what God can do...He's still doing miracles today! He's still changing lives today!

You **ARE**...You will be **CALLED**

41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter)-Jn 1:41-42 (NIV)

This is so cool...Andrew brings his brother to meet Jesus, and before he can say "Hey, I'd like you to meet"...

Jesus is like you're Simon! Can you imagine the look on their faces?

Jesus looked deep within Simon whose name in Hebrew means to hear...and He changed it to the Aramaic word *Kepha or Cephas* which in Greek is *Petros* which means stone...

What's the significance of all this? First of all, God knows your name! He knows who you are, but He also knows who you will become!

All through the Bible we see God changing names based on His purposes and His plans...

Abram to Abraham...

Sarai to Sarah...

Jacob to Israel...

Simon to Peter...

We live in a world that wants to change your name to confuse and control your identity...It's demonic

Let me say this...so many people think that they can change their identity by changing their name...

Please know that God loves you and He loves your name...He calls you by that name!

17 The Lord replied to Moses, "I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name."-Ex 33:17 (NLT)

He created you as a male or a female...and He loves you...don't fall into the lie that you're not who God created you to be! God doesn't make mistakes! Don't let the world change your name to fit its agenda...

Only the God who created you has the right to change your name, and **Revelation 2:17** tells us that He will give us a new name...

God loves you and He knows your name!
He knows who you are...and He's inviting you
to have a relationship with Him!

Here's the thing about discipleship...Jesus
invites us all to come and see, but sooner or
later He's going to say these words...

Follow **ME**

A true disciple doesn't just come and see and
then go...and come and see and
go...discipleship requires commitment...

Some people believe in Jesus, but they don't
follow Jesus...they never grow out of the come
and see stage...Jesus is looking for followers

He doesn't say I'll follow you...

Some people are frustrated with Jesus because
they want Jesus to follow them and bless
everything that they do...

In case you haven't figured it out, Jesus doesn't follow very well...do you know why? Because He's the Leader!

He says "Follow Me" that word follow in the Greek means to follow closely and keep on following...

A disciple doesn't just follow Jesus for a season and then quit...Discipleship is a daily walk with the Lord...

Jesus had crowds and crowds of people who were willing to "come and see"

But when He started talking about what it really means to be His disciple...what it really means to follow Him...People were like "I'm good"

23 Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.-Lk 9:23 (NLT)

What's Jesus saying? If you're going to follow Me...it's going to cost you giving up control of your life...

You don't go the way you want to go...Now you go My way...You do things the way the world does them...you do them the way I do them...

Following Jesus isn't just something you do on Sunday...it's something You do everyday...His thoughts become Your thoughts...His ways become Your ways...

Now what's interesting is that Jesus hadn't gone to the cross yet...but everyone who heard Him say that understood what He was saying...

If you want to follow Me...You need to spiritually die to yourself, and your will every day! The reality is that we can't follow Jesus if we're all about ourselves!

So what does following Jesus look like? It looks like walking with Jesus and asking Him...

Jesus, who should I hang out with?

Jesus, where should I work or go to school?

Jesus, who should I date?

Jesus, who should I marry?

Jesus, how should I spend my money?

Jesus, how should I serve others?

It's Jesus, I'm following You, You lead the way!
Whenever we go somewhere that Jesus isn't leading us...that's called sin!

Some of you are in a relationship that you shouldn't be in, doing things you shouldn't be doing...Jesus never leads us to something that violates His Word!

We're called to walk with the Lord...

This is why we have next steps...

Every time you take your next step...you're following Jesus!

Know God, Find Freedom, Discover Your Purpose, Make a Difference...

You got water baptized...You're following Jesus!

You joined the Bible reading plan...You're following Jesus!

You're attending prayer meetings...You're following Jesus!

You join a life group or a Bible study...You're following Jesus!

You're serving on the Dream Team...You're following Jesus!

You're tithing and giving to missions...You're following Jesus!

You're confessing your sin...finding freedom from all kinds of life controlling things...You're following Jesus!

We always have a next step because following Jesus means we're walking with Him every single day!

I see YOU

45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” 48 “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” 49 Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” 50 Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.”

51 He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”-Jn 1:44–51 (NIV)

Jesus sees us! He knows where we're at physically and spiritually...He sees our heart...He knows the spiritual condition of each of us...

He sees Nathanael and says there's not deceit in his heart...Nathanael's like how do you know me?

Jesus is before you saw me...I've already seen you! I saw you Nathanael sitting under the fig tree! In fact, not only did I see you...but I know what you were thinking about...

You were meditating on Genesis 28:17; When Jacob the deceiver was running away from his brother Esau...

Now don't worry Nathanael you don't have any deceit in your heart like Jacob did...

But it was Jacob's deceit that got him in trouble and while he was on the run, he rested for the night...And he had a dream about a ladder that reached all the way up to heaven, and he saw angels going up and down the ladder...

Long before you saw Me Nathanael, I saw you, and you were wondering about Me...

I'm the ladder Nathanael...I'm the only way to heaven...and the angels are ascending and descending upon Me...The Way, The Truth and the Life...

I am the link between heaven and earth...

Nathanael's like...You are the Son of God...the King of Israel! Why? Because he realized that Jesus saw him...

Jesus sees you...

Jesus sees me...

In our Bible reading yesterday we read about how Sarai was so eager to have a child, and she was tired of waiting on God so she took matters into her own hands...Never a good idea!

Sarai tells her husband Abram to sleep with her servant Hagar so they could have a son...Abram's like well I guess I'll take one for the team...boom Hagar becomes pregnant with Ishmael...

Sarai gets jealous...she gets mad at Abram for doing what she told him to do...Abram's like hey what do you want from me? Do what you want to do...Sarai treats Hagar so badly that she runs away...

Hagar's alone and scared...thinking not sure what to do...and even though Ishmael isn't the promised son...God still loves Hagar and Ishmael...He ministers to Hagar...

The angel of the Lord appears to her, tells her to go back to Abram and Sarai...And that God will take care of her...

13 Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, "You are the God who sees me." She also said, "Have I truly seen the One who sees me?"-Ge 16:13 (NLT)

What I'm trying to tell you is that El-roi...The God who saw Hagar sees You! God met Hagar right where she was at, and He says I see you!

God will meet you right where you are...and He says I see you...I see what you're dealing with...I see what you're struggling with...

I see things that you need to let go of, and stop doing...things that aren't pleasing to Me...

But I see things that you're doing right...things that are pleasing to Me...through it all I love you, and I'm for you...I see you!

16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed-Ps 139:16 (NLT)

As we close today, I want you to ask yourself the question: what is Jesus saying to me today?

Are you seeking? He knows your name...He's inviting you to come and see...

Are you following? Are you taking that step every day to follow Jesus, to listen and to obey and apply His Word to your life?

Are you inviting others into your life? Are you in fellowship? Are you growing?

Have you forgotten that God sees you? Maybe you needed that reminder today...He has a plan and a purpose for your life! You're not invisible...

Jesus, the Son of God, the creator of the universe, the King of kings and Lord of lords...The One who holds everything together sees you...loves you! What a mighty God we serve!

What's the Holy Spirit Saying To You?
Prayer

