

They Followed Jesus

- At this point in the ministry of Jesus
- We begin to see him assembling His group of disciples
- This text has already declared who He is and why He came
- And this has been confirmed by the man sent by God to prepare the way for Him
- Some have taken note of His identity, believe in Him, and have committed to follow Him
- Two of John's disciples here...

John 1:35-36

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!

- This is a re-affirmation
- John already declared this in verse 29
- Two men following John believed
- Perhaps he pointed this out again for their sake
- His mission was not to draw disciples after himself, but to point all men to Jesus
- The first disciple was Andrew and the other, perhaps, John the writer of this book (we are not told for sure)
- Whatever the case, they followed
- They took their eyes off whatever they beheld previously (whether it was John's teachings or just their Jewish customs) and looked to Jesus

John 1:37-38

37 ¶ And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed 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?

- Many hear about Jesus
- Perhaps they read or hear His words and become curious
- Maybe they follow just to find out what will happen next
- When Jesus saw these following Him, He asked them a question He often asks us
- "What seek ye?"
- Is this idle curiosity or a real desire to know Him?
- Do we follow for what we can get or because of who He is?
- Their response, Rabbi or Master gives evidence of their intention

- They came after Him to be taught of Him
- A Rabbi is a teacher or a teaching master
- This is what Jews called doctors in the law, the learned men
- The word literally means “my great one” or “my honorable sir”
- It was a title of respect and honor
- They followed, it seems, to become one of His disciples

John 1:39

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.

- Jesus invites them to come
- Just as He receives all that will come to Him in faith
- And they dwell with Him
- The time being recorded is one of the reasons we think the other disciple was likely John
- He does not mention himself by name, but throughout this gospel, takes careful note of the details of his personal story
- Perhaps in this case recording the very time He met and became Jesus' disciple

John 1:40-41

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.

- It becomes clear, at least from the words of Andrew, that they understand who Jesus is
- They have become convinced of it themselves
- It is no more just the assertion of John the Baptist, but a personal understanding
- They have spent time with Him, been taught by Him
- They are believers
- And enthusiastic now about telling others, starting with Simon Peter
- This is the pattern of those who meet and trust Him
- We see it throughout scripture
- We'll see it a few chapters later when we speak about a Samaritan woman...

John 4:25-30

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he

will tell us all things.

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?

28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

- This is another passage that makes it clear to us that He held back little about His identity
- He tells her plainly that He is the Messiah
- This is the reality Andrew embraced
- He wanted his brother to know

John 1:42

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.

- It is interesting that Jesus calls Simon Cephas - a stone
- This is rather more indicative of His character after Jesus' ascension than his character at this moment
- Before Jesus crucifixion, he could be regarded as brash, impulsive, even unthinking
- Jesus gave him a name that would be fitting for his future ministry
- The stone, or the rock, a symbol of firmness and steadiness of character
- Jesus foresaw this character in Him
- Isn't it encouraging that He sees men for what He can make them, rather than for what they are at the moment?

John 1:43-44

43 ¶ The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

- Now we see Jesus actively recruiting disciples - follow me
- He seems to seek out Philip specifically
- Being of the same city as Andrew and Peter, he had likely already heard somehow of the news
- That the Messiah had been found
- He believes, he follows, and tells another...

John 1:45-46

45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

46 ¶ And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

- I have done some writing on this passage in the past
- From a January 4th devotional...

"We know that many in Israel rejected Jesus, but in this chapter, we observe those who committed to following Him.

They are convinced that He is the One spoken about in the Old Testament. The One who would bring light and salvation to the ends of the earth.

But there was much, from a human perspective, that was confusing about His coming.

'Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?'

This part of Galilee was looked upon rather negatively by its neighbors in Israel. Kings did not arise from this place, why then would the King of kings?

His growing up there was, to the casual observer, a mark against Him. But He deserved more than a casual look.

So Philip said, 'come and see.' And those who looked deeper found Him Lord."

- And Nathanael does come to see...

John 1:47-48

47 ¶ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

48 ¶ Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

- Jesus said Nathanael was an Israelite that could be trusted
- There was no deceit in him
- How could a man that didn't know him - know him?
- How could a man who hadn't seen him - see him?

- Who was this man?
- How did He obtain this knowledge?
- How was any of this possible?
- Nathanael makes the connection...

John 1:49-51

49 ¶ Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

50 ¶ Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

- Jesus knowledge about Nathanael made a lasting impression on him
- He understood what this all meant
- He was speaking with One that knew all things
- One who could see into men's hearts
- Who could be in a place without actually being there
- But this was only the beginning for Jesus' disciples
- They would see greater works from Him
- Even doing some themselves
- In the pursuit of verifying His identity to others
- Philip and Nathanael were committing to follow the rightful king of Israel
- The Son of God
- The perfect, sinless sacrifice who would die in their place
- And they would follow Him up until that day - then far beyond
- You'll find Nathanael listed under the name Bartholomew if you search out His disciples
- He and Philip were likely martyred for their faith
- Nathanael likely in India
- Philip likely in Hierapolis (an ancient Greek city in modern Turkey)
- They were some of the lesser known disciples
- But their commitment, even from this passage alone, is clear
- This was not a phase for them or a passing interest in the latest popular teacher
- When they found the Messiah, they committed to Him
- Their minds were made up

- Their beliefs were only confirmed more and more through time
- They would see and hear more of Jesus' knowledge of all men
- They would observe (in person) many prophecies fulfilled in Him
- And Philip's assertion "We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write" would be proven again and again

- Those not sure about Him themselves should
- "Come and See"

- His authenticity is declared through "many infallible proofs"
- Paul outlines it in a gospel declaration from...

I Corinthians 15:1-8

- 1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;
- 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.
- 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
- 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:
- 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:
- 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.
- 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.
- 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

- The proof of this Jesus' authenticity as the Savior was seen
- By many
- More than 500 at once
- Those who honestly examine His life, death, burial, and resurrection
- Come to know Him as Lord
- Just as Andrew, John, Philip, and Nathanael did here

Christopher Harper, January 2021