

# Disciples Called by Jesus

John 1:35-42

Life Group Discussion – August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Your relationship with your husband or wife is one of the most important relationships you will have in your life. No matter what kind of person you are before you get married, you will be influenced and changed by your spouse after marriage.

However, there is a relationship that is even more important than marriage, your relationship with Jesus. Your spouse may affect your life on Earth, but Jesus affects your spiritual life forever.

Today's passage is about the disciples who first meet Jesus, and how their lives changed because of their encounter. The first disciples were those who were baptized under John the Baptist and understood that Jesus was God.

**The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (John 1:35-36)**

When we say the word "lamb", it doesn't mean very much in our culture. But to the Israelites, lambs had significant meaning. Every Passover they would sacrifice a lamb to cover their sins, and it was through this lamb that they received forgiveness and new life.

Andrew and Simon were the first disciples to see that Jesus could forgive their sins like the lambs. So they search for Jesus and when they find Him Jesus asks a question.

**Jesus 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?" (John 1:38)**

Jesus asks them what they are looking for and the two men reply with a strange response. They don't answer Jesus but instead asks Him where He is staying. Even though this may seem strange we realize that they were asking Jesus so that they could stay with Him. They wanted to be close to Jesus.

It needs to be our desire to be close to Jesus. Worship helps us encounter Jesus is a personal way and worship helps us connect with God in a beautiful way.

The two men listened to Jesus all night and when it became morning, they were different.

**He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). (John 1:41)**

"We have found the Messiah"

Because they truly encountered the Lord, they were able to proudly and boldly proclaim that Jesus was the Messiah.

Many of us believe in Jesus Christ and have accepted the Lord as savior and yet we become timid or afraid when it comes to sharing the gospel.

Who should evangelize?

It does not matter your skill level or biblical knowledge when it comes to evangelism, what matters is if you encountered the Lord. If you truly believe in Jesus Christ, then there is no fear because you know you are proclaiming the truth, no matter the response.

This is why evangelism is not hard, but easy.

This is the same with sermons.

Sermons are meant to be simple and easy to hear.

There is no need for complicated or difficult sermons because it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that people hear the Word and are changed.

It was in the 17th and 18th century that sermons started to become much more scholarly and intellectual.

Sermons became difficult and the spirit of those listening began to die. But the one person who saw this change and stopped it was the founder of the Methodist denomination, John Wesley. He used only language and vocabulary that the regular churchgoer would understand and kept it simple but powerful. It was through this style of preaching that revival happened.

Andrew's way of evangelizing was very simple. He simply said, "come".

There does not need to be any fancy words or long explanation, all you need to do is introduce them to Jesus.

After the original sin of Adam, many people cannot answer the question of who they are or where they are going. They do not have an identity. But for those who do know the Lord, our souls are healed and we know what happens after death.

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)**

We become a new creation if we believe in Jesus Christ.

My brothers and sisters,  
It is through the blood of Jesus Christ that we become a new creation. No matter your past sins or hurts, God is able to heal your soul and wipe away your tears.

**He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter). (John 1:42)**

Simon’s name changed to Peter, meaning “the rock”. After meeting Jesus, Simon’s life changed and his identity changed as well, becoming Peter.

Jesus explains further in His ministry why He changes Simon’s name.

**Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:16-18)**

When you meet Jesus Christ, your name not only changes, but your entire life changes. Even for Paul, he was a killer of Christians and a terrible man who did not know God. But after meeting Jesus, He became known as one of the greatest evangelist in the history of the world.

**But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are (1 Corinthians 1:27-28)**

God can use the weakest, most sinful, and foolish person to shine His glory to this world. All we must do is stay faithful to the Lord and follow after Him.

We may only be able to see the present, but God can see the future. When we meet Jesus, our entire future changes.

I hope that we can become disciples whose entire future changes because we met the Lord. I pray that we would truly encounter the power of the Holy Spirit and the love and grace of Jesus Christ so that our names, our hearts, and our lives completely change.

## **SHARING-----**

1. The disciples of Jesus only need to say, “Come” when they evangelize. It is the power of Jesus Christ that will change the lives of others, not us. If God gives us an opportunity to share the gospel with someone, how you will explain the gospel? Try to make it short and simple, trusting in the power of Jesus Christ.
2. How has your life changed after being saved by Jesus Christ and becoming a new creation?
3. What is something that you remember and was particularly important for you during the sermon?