

THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION IS SIMPLE: “COME AND SEE”

Text: John 1: 35 – 51.

Jesus' First Disciples

35The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

37When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

39"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

40Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). 42And 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^[1]).

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

44Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45Philip 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.

47When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."

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^[k] because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." 51 He then added, "I tell you^[l] the truth, you^[m] shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Lessons:

1. You are only required to be a witness: a witness gives account of what he/she has seen. You are not called to provide opinions neither are you call to invent things. In John 1: 33-34, John said I do not know Him. The one who sent me told me about him and I just bear the record. In John 4: 29 the woman of Samaria called others to come and see a man who told her all about her life. 1 John 1: 2-3 makes it clear who a witness is. There is no room for debate: can anything good come out of Nazareth? (John 1:46.)
2. Those in need of witnessing are not far away from us. They are just around us. In Luke 16 Lazarus was always at the gate of the rich man. In John 1:40, Andrew found his own brother, Simon.
3. It does not matter what brought them to Jesus. Jesus has promised what will happen to them when heaven opens on them. I guess the two disciples of Jesus where tired of the life in the wilderness, hence they needed a teacher who had a place of abode. (John 1:39). See also 1 Sam. 22:2. Hence Jesus said: Come unto me all you who are heavy laden, I will give you rest. Mt. 11:29-30.
4. Allow the space for genuine conversion and conviction. No tricks, no bulldozing! (John 1: 47-51).

Conclusion:

“The saving of souls, if a man has once gained love to perishing sinners and his blessed masters, will be an all-absorbing passion to him. It will so carry him away, that he will almost forget himself in the saving of others. He will be like the fireman, who cares not for the scorch or the heat, so that he may rescue the poor creature on whom true humanity has set its heart. If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.” – Charles Spurgeon. Quote: Kirk Cameron & Ray Comfort, *The Way of the Master*, Genesis Publishing Group, 2006, page 13.