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Come and See

JOHN 1:43-51

Introduction

1. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be one of Jesus' disciples during the time He was here on the earth?
2. To be one of the privileged ones to whom He said, "Follow Me!"
3. I have always thought it would have been exciting to be one of Jesus' three closest disciples — either Peter, James or John.
 - a. They were the only ones with Jesus when He raised the twelve year old daughter of Jairus and his wife from death (Luke 8:41-42, 49-56).
 - b. They were also the only ones with Him on the Mount of Transfiguration when "His face shown like the sun and his clothes became as white as light" (Matthew 17:2).
 - c. Or on the occasion when all of the disciples were with Him in the boat on the Sea of Galilee and a fierce storm came up and began filling the boat with water.
 - d. Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat. They woke Him up and said to him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4:38).
 - e. What did Jesus do? "He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm." (Mark 4:39).
4. Our lesson today takes us back to the first days of His ministry, before any of these things had happened.
5. According to John, Andrew had gone the day before to tell his brother, Peter,

about Jesus (*John 1:40-42*).

- a. He told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which translated means Christ) (*John 1:41*).
 - b. Andrew then brought him to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter) (*John 1:42*).
6. It is the next person that John tells us about and what he does that I would like for us to focus upon this morning.

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A. “FOLLOW ME”

“The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter.” (*John 1:43–44, NASB95*)

1. On this particular day, Jesus decided to go north to Galilee.
2. On His way there, He encountered a man named Philip and said to him, “Follow Me” (v. 43).
3. Philip was from the same place as Peter and Andrew, Bethsaida, a small fishing village on the northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.
4. What did Philip do? He followed Jesus.
5. He also did something else. He went looking for Nathanael.

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B. “WE HAVE FOUND HIM”

“Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”” (*John 1:45, NASB95*)

1. When Philip found Nathanael, he said, “We have found Him.”

2. Can't you just hear Nathanael saying, "found who" and Philip responding, "Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote"

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3. What did Moses write about this person?

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him." (Deuteronomy 18:15, NASB95)

"I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him." (Deuteronomy 18:18, NASB95)

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4. What did the Prophets write?

"When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." (2 Samuel 7:12-13, NASB95)

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6, NASB95)

"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations." (Isaiah 42:1, NASB95)

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C. "CAN ANY GOOD THING COME OUT OF NAZARETH?"

"Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" " (John 1:46a, NASB95)

1. But then Philip told Nathanael who this man was and where he was from.
“Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”
 - a. The people from Galilee were often looked down upon by the people from Judea.
 - b. It seems that even fellow Galileans despised Nazareth.
 - c. Nathanael was from Cana (*John 21:2*), another town in Galilee.
 - d. As a matter of fact, it was the same city where Jesus would attend a wedding feast and change water to wine (*John 2:1-11*).
2. Before Nathanael had even met Jesus, he was deciding whether or not he would like Him based upon where He was from.
3. We do the same today, don't we?
4. We determine whether or not we will like someone based upon . . .
 - a. Where they live? (neighborhood, house)
 - b. What they have? (Car you or your parents drive, clothes you wear, accessories you possess)
 - c. Who they know?
 - d. Those from among the younger generations consider what social media platforms others are on.
5. All of these things do not determine who you or anyone else is as a person.

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6. Most of all, God looks beyond these things to your heart.

“God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (*1 Samuel 16:7b, NASB95*)

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D. “COME AND SEE”

“Philip said to him, “Come and see.”” (*John 1:46b, NASB95*)

1. Philip's response to Nathanael was “Come and see.”

2. So, Nathanael went with Philip to see Jesus.
3. When Jesus saw him coming, He said of Nathanael, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” (John 1:47).
 - a. Nathanael had never seen Jesus before this moment.
 - b. Neither had Jesus seen Nathanael.
 - c. However, Jesus knew Nathanael’s heart, just as He knows your heart here this morning.
4. Nathanael’s question is the same question each of us would have asked, “How do You know me?” (John 1:48a).
5. Jesus’ response to Nathanael, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” (John 1:48b).

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6. Listen to what David once said of God (Psalm 139:1-4).

“O Lord, You have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You understand my thought from afar.
You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O Lord, You know it all.”

(Psalm 139:1–4, NASB95)

7. Suddenly, Nathanael responded to Jesus, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel” (John 1:49).

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8. Jesus said to Nathanael, “Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these” (John 1:50).

9. And he did!
 - a. He saw Jesus turn water into wine at a wedding feast (*John 2:1-11*)
 - b. He healed an official's son, who was in the a village some 20 miles away simply by saying, "Go; your son lives" (*John 4:49*).
 - c. He healed a man at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem who had been an invalid for 38 years simply by saying, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk" (*John 5:8-9*).
 - d. He fed five thousand people with "five barley loaves and two fish" with "twelve baskets of fragments left over" (*John 6:1-14*).
 - e. He walked on the Sea of Galilee (*John 6:16-21*).
 - ❑ I could keep going, but I think you get the idea.

Conclusion

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1. You and I and all creation have our Lord's fingerprints all over us:
 - a. At the beginning of John's gospel, he wrote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being." (*John 1:1-3, NASB95*)

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- b. In Paul's letter to the Christians in the ancient city of Colosse he wrote, "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (*Colossians 1:16-17, NASB95*)
2. There is a song which you may have sung at one time or another which asks

the question, "Have you seen Jesus my Lord?"

3. Have you ever stopped to consider the words to that hymn?

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- a. "Have you ever stood at the ocean
With the white foam at your feet;
Felt the endless thundering motion,
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord."
- b. "Have you ever stood at the sunset
With the sky mellowing red;
Seen the clouds suspended like feathers,
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord."

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- c. "Have you ever stood in the family
With the Lord there in your midst;
Seen the face of Christ in your brother,
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord."
 - d. "Have you ever stood at the cross
With the man hanging in pain;
Seen the look of love in His eyes,
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord."
4. Evidence of our Savior's handiwork is all around us telling us of God's love for us.
 5. Today, Jesus invites you to follow Him, to turn from the sinful choices you are making in your life and confess Him as your Lord and Savior.
 6. Today, He calls upon you to wash away the sin that has stained your soul and prevented you from any hope beyond this life.
 7. Will you come to Him?