

TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD
JOHN 1:35-51

JOHN TOLD HIS DISCIPLES SOMETHING GOOD (1:35-39)

John Introduces Jesus to His Disciples (1:35-36)

Again the next day, this would have been the day after the delegation of priests and Levites came from Jerusalem to meet with him. **John was standing with two of his disciples**. From verse 40 we know that Andrew was one of these disciples, the other one is believed to be the Apostle John because when he talks about himself in this Gospel he does not use his name. As they stood there, Jesus was passing by and John said, **Behold the Lamb of God!**

After the close of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament there had been no public prophetic voice. When John the Baptist came on the scene, he was identified as a key spiritual figure. At this point, John was stepping back and transferring the focus over to Jesus. His introduction of Jesus as God's Lamb was significant. Under the Law, the sacrifices could only cover sin but now the Lamb of God was able to **take away the sin of the world (vs. 29)**.

John's Disciples Follow Jesus (1:37-39)

When John's disciples **heard him [John] speak**, they **followed Jesus**. The word followed means they started walking behind him. But this simple act had even deeper implications. They followed Jesus in the sense that now instead of continuing to be under the tutelage of John they were going to now sit at the feet of Jesus. This speaks profoundly of the instructions John gave to those who were under his ministry. John spoke with such anticipation about the Messiah that his disciples eagerly followed Jesus. When he introduced Jesus as the **Lamb of God** he was saying something to the effect, "There he is fellas, the One I have been telling you about all this time, follow Him."

As John's two disciples were following Jesus, He turn and **saw them following**. The word **saw** (Greek *theaomai*) means he looked at them as one who would be a spectator at an event. Then Jesus queries them, **What seek ye?** By asking this question, Jesus wanted to know more than just "What do you want?" Knowing these men had been groomed by John, He was wanting to know, "What are you looking for in me?" These disciples responded to Jesus question by asking another question, **Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?** The reason for their question was they wanted to go to where He lived to talk with Him and get to know Him. In response to their question, John gives us the first recorded words of Christ in his Gospel when He says, **Come and see**. Here Jesus is giving them more than an invitation to see where He lived, it was also an summons to come learn more about Him. **They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour**. They came to the place he lived and spend the rest of the day with Him. John notes **it was about the tenth hour**. Depending on the time of the day the Apostle John identified as the beginning, the **tenth hour** could have been 10:00 a.m. (12:00 mid-night start) or 4:00 p.m. (6:00 a.m. start).

ANDREW TOLD PETER SOMETHING GOOD (1:40-42)

Andrew Tells Peter about Jesus (1:40-41)

One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon... We have all heard the expression, “The greatest find ever.” Andrew finding Peter was not the greatest find ever but it was certainly a great find for the church. Very little is recorded about Andrew after this but Peter went on to be in the inner circle of Jesus and is a key figure in the first part of the Book of Acts. Andrew could not wait to tell Peter the Good News. When he caught up with Peter he exclaimed, **We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.** Andrew’s excitement is seen in the usage of the word **found**. The Greek word for **found** is the basis for our English word eureka which means a shout of joy when something valuable is discovered. The word *Messiah* in Hebrew means the “Anointed One” and it referred to the One who would come and sit on the Throne of David. This is interpreted as **the Christ**, which in Greek means “The Anointed One.” Andrew was letting Peter know he had met the long-awaited Messiah who’s coming was prophesied in the Old Testament.

Andrew Brings Peter to Jesus (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. Jesus gave Peter the Aramaic name of Cephas which meant **A stone**. His name is changed from Simon, meaning “hear or listen” to Cephas “A stone.” There is no reason given for Peter’s name change. But there are two things we can say for certain, his new name reflected his new identity and it reflected the character he would possess to fulfill God’s purposes.

PHILLIP TOLD NATHANAEL SOMETHING GOOD (1:43-51)

Philip Tells Nathanael about Jesus (43-46)

The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. The day after Jesus met with Peter and Andrew, he left the place where John the Baptist was ministering to travel north to Galilee. As he was traveling he found Philip and said to him **Follow me**. Philip’s hometown was **Bethsaida** the city where Andrew and Peter lived. **Bethsaida**, which means “house of fishing” was located on the northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Even though the text does not tell us, Philip most likely became a disciple of Christ at this point. Jesus just didn’t walk by randomly call Philip, the chances are there was some other interaction leading up to Jesus saying **Follow me**.

Later on that day **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.** Here again in this verse we see the word **found** and the idea is eureka—a shout of joy when discovering something valuable. Philip was saying we have found the One who Moses wrote about Jesus in the Pentateuch and the prophets preached about Him in the books of the prophets. Philip identified Him as **the son of Joseph**. This in no way diminished the Messianic status of Christ, it was a way for Philip to readily identify Jesus in a way that Nathanael would know who he was talking about. Nathanael’s response was **Can there any good thing come out of**

Nazareth? Nazareth was a lowly little town not mentioned in the Old Testament. In essence, Nathanael's question was "How could the mighty Messiah come from such an obscure place?" Philip's response was the same as Jesus to Andrew, **Come and see.** Come check it out for yourself.

Nathanael Recognizes Jesus as the Son of God (47-49)

Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! When Jesus saw Nathanael come to Him he identified him as an Israelite **in whom is no guile!** The word guile is from the Greek word *dolos* meaning deceit or trickery. The word was used of bait for fishing, it was also used of those who tried to bait or trick others. Many of the religious leaders in that day were full of hypocrisy, yet Nathanael was a man of integrity and Jesus recognized it. **Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me?** Philip knew he was trying to live a life of integrity and he was puzzled as to how Jesus could know this before they ever met. Yet he was even more perplexed when Jesus said, **Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.** Jesus not only knew Philip's character, he also knew what he was doing earlier. Nathanael may have been resting under the fig tree or as many commentators believe he was meditating under it. **Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.** Nathanael became overwhelmed with Jesus' knowledge of him and he went from saying **Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth** to acknowledging Jesus as the **Son of God** and **King of Israel**, who would sit on the throne of David.

Jesus Reveals to Nathaniel that He Shall See Greater Things (50-51)

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. Jesus was telling Nathanael, if you think this is something, hold on to your hat because you haven't seen anything yet. Little did Nathanael know that he would see Jesus turn water into wine, heal an impotent man, give sight to a blind man and raise a man from the dead. Jesus concludes the conversation by saying, **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.** Some believe that when Nathanael was under the fig tree he was meditation on Genesis 28:12 where Jacob saw angels ascending and descending on a ladder to heaven. Jesus used this as a spring board to talk about the fact that He would be the mediator between men on earth and God in Heaven. Even the work of angels would rest on the authority of Christ.

Open It

What gets you excited or enthusiastic?

*How would you feel if a good friend abandoned your friendship in favor of someone else?

What nicknames have you had over the years?

Explore It

Who besides Jesus had disciples? ([1:35](#))

What did John say when he saw Jesus? ([1:36](#))

How did John identify Jesus for his disciples? ([1:37](#))

*What did John's disciples do when John identified Jesus? ([1:37](#))

What did Jesus ask John's disciples? ([1:38](#))

What did John's disciples call Jesus? ([1:38](#))

What did John's disciples ask Jesus? ([1:38](#))

*What was the first thing Andrew did after he had followed Jesus? ([1:40](#))

Who was Andrew's brother? ([1:40](#))

*What did Andrew tell his brother about Jesus? ([1:41](#))

What nickname did Jesus give to Simon? ([1:42](#))

What words did the author interpret for us? ([1:37](#), [41](#), [42](#))

Get It

*What does it mean to follow Jesus?

What hinders us from following Jesus?

*What must we leave to follow Jesus?

To what friends and relatives could you introduce Jesus?

How can we spend time with Jesus to get to know Him better?

Apply It

Whom do you want to introduce to Jesus this week?

How could you introduce Christ to a friend or relative?

*What change in your daily routine would enable you to follow Jesus better?

Open It

How do people feel when they find something that's been missing for a long time?

What famous people would you like to meet? Why?

*About what things are people today skeptical?

Explore It

How did Jesus and Philip meet? ([1:43](#))

What did Jesus say to Philip? ([1:43](#))

*How did Philip respond to Jesus' invitation? ([1:44-46](#))

What did Philip do after he followed Jesus? ([1:45](#))

What did Philip tell Nathanael about Jesus? ([1:45](#))

*Why was Nathanael skeptical that Philip had found the Messiah? ([1:46](#))
How did Nathanael respond to the fact that Jesus was from Nazareth? ([1:46](#))
What did Jesus say when he saw Nathanael? ([1:47](#))
*What convinced Nathanael that Jesus was the Son of God? ([1:47-50](#))
What was Nathanael's response to Jesus' greeting? ([1:48](#))
Why was Nathanael surprised? ([1:48](#))
Why did Nathanael call Jesus the Son of God and the King of Israel? ([1:48-49](#))
What were the greater things to which Jesus referred? ([1:50](#))
What did Jesus tell Nathanael he would see? ([1:51](#))
Who is the Son of Man? ([1:51](#))

Get It

What about Christ stirs skepticism today?

*What stereotypes about Christ prevent people from trusting Him today?

What convinced you that Jesus was the Son of God?

*What makes Jesus qualified to rule our lives?

How is Jesus the King of your life?

What do you have in common with Jesus?

How can Jesus' identity as the Son of God inspire your confidence in Him?

Apply It

How will you show your trust in the God who knows all about you this week?

*How would you share your faith with a skeptical person this week?

In what way will you recognize Jesus as the ruler of your life today?