

“The Gospel of John: The Calling of the Twelve”

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Scripture

John 1:35-51

“Again, the next day **John was standing with two of his disciples**, and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, **"Behold, the Lamb of God!"** The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So, they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, **"We have found the Messiah"** (which translated means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; **you shall be called Cephas**" (which is translated Peter).

43The 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.

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." Nathanael said to him, **"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"** Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, **"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"**

48Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, **when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.**" Nathanael answered Him, **"Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."** Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? **You will see greater things than these.**"

51And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."."

Overview of the Gospels

- **Matthew** -> **Jewish flavor to the writing, portraying Jesus as the Christ and King**
- **Mark** -> **Jesus as the “Son of Man”, really Peter’s Gospel for the Gentiles**
- **Luke** -> **Jesus is Human and the Redeemer of Humanity**
- **John** -> **Jesus is the Divine “Son of God”**

Why Write the Gospel?

Matthew, Mark and Luke’s Gospels were already around. Why another one?

The Purpose for John's Gospel

John 20:30-31

"Therefore, **many other signs Jesus also performed** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that **believing** you may have life in His name."

Many events in John not recorded elsewhere

Many events recorded in the Synoptics not in John -> the Transfiguration, for example

The word "believe" ~100 times in John's Gospel

Remembrances

9/11 Families and the Queen

John's Disciples

John 1:35-36

"Again, the next day **John was standing with two of his disciples**, and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "**Behold, the Lamb of God!**"

We see John the Baptist's humility on display here

John was always deflecting people away from him to Jesus (**John 3:30**) – final words about the Baptist in Ch.3

John had a group of disciples that initial began with him out in the wilderness

Luke 7:18-20

"**The disciples of John** reported to him about all these things. Summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?" When the men came to Him, they said, "**John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?**"

John wasn't sure that Jesus was the Messiah. He needed to ask Jesus about it.

Acts 18:24-26 (Third Missionary Journey)

"Now a **Jew named Apollos**, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they **took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.**"

Apollos was a gifted man, fervent in the spirit (lower case spirit) -> he had energy but was only teaching repentance

Priscilla and Aquila gave her the true knowledge -> "more accurately" -> need Jesus, not just repentance

We learn that some individuals at church or in our families may not fully understand the gospel

We need to continually instruct about the gospel because some people we meet might not "get it"

This is why we continue to preach the gospel, over and over again, in the church

Lamb of God

If John didn't know that Jesus was the Messiah, why did he use the phrase "the Lamb of God"?

The lamb was a common reference for Jews relating to the sacrifice during Passover

Isaiah 53:7

"He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; **Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.**"

Isaiah's Suffering Servant passage prophesied of the Messiah's suffering -> He would be the sacrificial Lamb

This is the **SECOND** time in this chapter John the Baptist refers to Jesus as the Lamb – 2 consecutive days

It seems as if John the Baptist **receives divine knowledge** that Jesus is the Lamb of God

Peter receives similar divine knowledge when he confesses that Jesus is the Messiah (Christ) -> **Matthew 16:13-20**

Jesus tells Peter that flesh and blood did not reveal this to Peter but "My Father in Heaven"

In his writings, the Apostle John uses the Lamb reference most often:

Revelation 5:6 -> depicts the Lord in front of the throne "as a Lamb standing, as if slain"

Revelation 7:14 -> depicts a group coming out of the Great Tribulation with white robes "because of the blood of the Lamb"

Revelation 17:14 -> the evil ones will "wage war against the Lamb and the Lamb will overcome them"

Revelation 19:7-9

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for **the marriage of the Lamb** has come and His bride has made herself ready." It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write, **Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**"

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb -> Jesus united with His Church in glory

Come and You Will See

John 1:37-39

“The two disciples heard him speak, and **they followed Jesus**. And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "**What do you seek?**" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" He said to them, "**Come, and you will see.**" So, they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour."

Jesus always seemed to draw a crowd and Jesus often interacted with people

When He fed the 5,000, He drew a crowd before because of His healing of the people.

When He interacted with the Jews, He said:

John 6:44

“No one can come to Me **unless the Father who sent Me draws him**; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

This drawing was purposeful, however.

“What Do You Seek?” Jesus asks them.

They do not seem to have an answer to the question -> **they are drawn without understanding**

It must be a divine leading.

Many people are drawn to Jesus without knowing why -> they come asking a lot of questions, they feel a pull

Jesus invites them to “**come, and you will see**” -> we need to do the same, “**come, check out our Savior!**”

John notes the exact time of the event occurring, the tenth hour (10AM to us) – **60 years after the event!**

With John **knowing the exact time**, he was **most likely one of the two disciples**

The Messiah

John 1:40-41

“**One of the two** who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "**We have found the Messiah**" (which translated means Christ).”

The other disciple is Andrew, Peter’s brother -> so we have John and Andrew as the first two recorded by the Apostle John

It stands to reason since they all were fishermen that they would be together. James is not mentioned by John

Messiah means “the Anointed One” -> “Christ” is a title, not a last name!

Anointing was meant to show the Lord's favor upon someone -> a king or priest in the Old Testament

During Jesus's baptism, the Father's voice out Heaven said, "This is Beloved Son **in whom I am well pleased**"

Jesus is the Favored One

How does Andrew know that Jesus is the Messiah?

It has to be another divine revelation directly to Andrew

We continually see the Heavenly drawing in these first disciples.

You Shall be Called Cephas

John 1:42

"He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; **you shall be called Cephas**" (which is translated Peter)."

Simon (or Simeon) was a Jewish name

Andrew (Andreas) is a Greek name – it shows that the community in Bethsaida was multi-ethnic

Andrew brings Peter to Jesus and gets a name change

He will now get an Aramaic name, Cephas which means "rock" -> Peter is the Greek

Why is Jesus changing Simon's name from Jewish to Aramaic or Greek?

Peter has been divinely ordained to have his position -> Aramaic was the most common language utilized

Matthew 16:15-18

"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but **My Father who is in heaven**. "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will **build My church**; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

Long before he would confess Jesus as the Christ, and where Jesus reminds him that his name is Peter, Peter is called for a specific purpose by Jesus: **anointed by the Lord, if you will** – John 21, his commissioning

Follow Me!

John 1:43

"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."

Jesus intentionally goes into Galilee -> **here we see the Lord finding Philip** – not brought by another man

The Lord pursues Philip:

Did any of you feel the Lord pursuing you?

Philip is simply told, "Follow Me"

We learn that Andrew and Peter were from Bethsaida, but Peter eventually lives in Capernaum (Mark 1:21)

The Twelve Are Called

We've seen John, Andrew, and Peter called

We've seen Philip called

Then we see Philip find Nathanael

John 1:45-47

"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."

Nathanael said to him, **"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"** Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, **"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"**

We have found the One that fulfills the Old Testament prophecies: **Jesus**

Deuteronomy 18:15

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him."

Luke 24:44-45

"Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are **written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**" Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures."

Moses -> **Deuteronomy 18:15**

The Prophets -> **Isaiah 7, 9, 11, and 53**

The Psalms -> **Psalms 2 and Psalm 8 (which I read earlier)**

Nazareth was a nothing town -> no real value in the people's eyes

Nathanael was an honest man -> **there was no deceit or guile in him at all** -> "WYSIWYG"

He would evaluate Jesus on his own without Philip telling him about Jesus

I Saw You

John 1:48-51

“Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, **when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.**" Nathanael answered Him, "**Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.**" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? **You will see greater things than these.**”

51 And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."."

How do you know me? Nathanael asks...

Jesus says, "**I saw you**" -> "Nathanael, I have a supernatural ability" -> omnipresence -> knowledge of all men

Only 5 disciples are mentioned by John -> **why not the others?**

It is because of HOW these were called

Their calling reveals Jesus to be God -> Nathanael calls Him **the Son of God and the King of Israel!**

These disciples would see greater things than Jesus knowing Nathanael from extreme distance

What greater things would they see?

What do we learn from this passage?

1. Our calling is divine -> if you're in Christ, it is not by accident, it is by Sovereign plan
2. We are called to Follow Jesus -> it's not optional
3. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament -> festivals, prophecy, and future

What we've seen so far in John's Gospel:

- Jesus is God (John 1:1)
- Jesus came to be with us to explain God to us. (John 1:14-18)
- John the Baptist was the Apostle John's first witness. (John 1:6-8; 19-34)
- Jesus is calling the next set of witnesses to be part of His earthly ministry (John 1:35-51)

How would you evaluate yourself as a witness for Jesus?

Prayer

Benediction