

## John 1:35-51 – Jesus Calls His Disciples, Part 1

### Introduction: Christianity Has Gone Global

1. We see the beginnings of our Faith in today's Text
2. Jesus begins His ministry calling a nucleus of simple people to Himself

**Central Focus of Our Text: Christian Discipleship includes being an evangelist for Jesus. Jesus has called you to Himself to be His disciple. A disciple of Christ goes and tells people to come and see what they have found to be true of Jesus: He is King, Messiah, Savior, & God.**

### John the Baptist's Prophetic Testimony (vv 35-37)

1. The ministry of John the Baptist directed people away from himself and toward Jesus
2. John had disciples. Of them, Andrew and John the Apostle were two. Both left John and followed Jesus
3. Jesus is the Lamb, the One you have been waiting for

### Jesus' Authoritative Testimony (vv 38-39)

1. Jesus' Question: *What are you seeking?*
2. Following Jesus for the wrong reasons
  - a. The crowds followed for food (**John 6:26**)
  - b. Why are you following Jesus? Morality? Keeping a reputation? Justification of a good life?
3. Following Jesus for the right reasons
  - a. He is Lord; You are a sinner in need of salvation
  - b. Jesus' death and resurrection
4. Jesus does not need a following; He usually persuades not to follow – Let the dead bury their own dead; you must hate your parents, children, family, own life; count the cost to follow Me; Carry the Cross
  - a. Jesus does not need our fellowship, You need Him
  - b. Jesus wants True Disciples
5. Andrew & John's Response: *Where are you staying?*
  - a. Our generation is not interested in finding truth
  - b. No solid answers, no absolute truth
  - c. Until you have a heart that is interested in the answer, you will only have questions & a dissatisfied soul
  - d. The Truth of Christ sets you free
6. Jesus' Response: *Come and See* (Look & Learn)
  - a. You will behold Spiritual Reality, be given Spiritual sight to see the ultimate meaning of things

### Andrew's Eyewitness, Experiential Testimony (vv 40-43)

1. Andrew believed Jesus was the Anointed of God (Messiah)
2. Jesus' Divine Authority – He gives Simon a New Identity
3. Jesus has the authority to give you a new name and a destiny; Transforms people from what they are into what they should be
4. He does this for all of us (**1 John 5:4 → Revelation 2:17**)
5. Cowardly Peter is changed into a Courageous, Bold Christian
6. This is more than a prediction, it is a calling (Sinner to Saint)
7. A Jesus who does not challenge you, or just accepts everything about you is not the Jesus of the Bible

### Philip's Biblical Testimony (44-45)

1. Jesus is the Messiah based on the witness of Scripture (**Jn 5:39**)
2. Experiential Testimony is secondary to God's Testimony
3. Faith depends on the Written Word, the Biblical Testimony

### Nathanael's Honest Skepticism (v 46)

1. Nazareth? The backwater town in Galilee? The Messiah comes from Bethlehem! (His skepticism is honest and valid)
2. Jesus points out Nathanael's inward character – An Israel without a Jacob – and his private business no one else knows

### Nathanael's Royal Messianic Testimony (vv 47-49)

1. Nathanael is surprised – You ARE the Messiah and King!
2. Jesus knows the Worst About YOU! And Yet, He laid His life down for you because He loves you
3. He receives the Sinner and changes them into a Saint of God

### Jesus' Royal Messianic Revelation (vv 50-51)

1. Calling of Christ is a summons to glory, revelation & change
2. Jesus' play on words to Nathanael is an allusion to Genesis 27, where Jacob the trickster later becomes Israel
3. Genesis 28 – Jacob's Ladder: Jesus says HE is the ladder
4. Daniel 7 – The Son of Man and the Ancient of Days, coequal, divine – The Son of Man given dominion, glory, and a kingdom

### John the Apostle's Identifying Testimony: Jesus, From Nazareth?

1. Jesus is the Word, the Life, the Light, the Only Begotten from the Father, full of Grace and Truth (**vv 1, 4, 5, 14**)
2. Jesus is greater than John the Baptist, who has seen God, at the Father's side, and has made Him known (**vv 15, 18, 26, 30**)
3. Jesus is Lord, Lamb, has the Spirit, baptizes with fire & Spirit, the Son of God, Rabbi, Messiah, the One the OT wrote about, the Son of Man, King of Israel, the Ladder into Heaven, God made flesh (**vv 14, 23, 29, 33-34, 36, 38, 41, 45, 49, 51**)