

JESUS IS THE ONE  
WHO CALLS

John 1:35-51

# INTRODUCTION

- The Gospel of John is a portrait of Jesus Christ and His saving work.
- It's purpose is clear: “. . . these are 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” (John 20:31).



FOLLOW JESUS OUT OF  
SIN AND INTO A  
RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

*JOHN 1:35-42*

# POINTS TO JESUS

- John the Baptist points to Jesus.
- This passage begins in the third day of the ministry of Jesus.
- This is the account of how he selected His disciples.
- John the Baptist once again heralds Him as the Lamb of God, just as he did earlier.
- This time it is different because people respond.

# POINTS TO JESUS

- These two disciples aren't just any two men. These men were followers of John the Baptist.
- Notice that John the Baptist is not offended by this.
- He knew Jesus was greater. He understood that bringing people to Jesus was his mission.
- His disciples understood that he was constantly directing their attention to one who was more important and more worthy.

# POINTS TO JESUS

- D.A. Carson - “To recommend disciples to a greater teacher was rare, and required great humility and denoted confidence in the other teacher’s superiority.”
- These first disciples weren’t just walking behind Jesus. They were true followers and learning what it meant to be a true disciple of Christ.
- They were telling others to leave everything and follow Jesus.

# POINTS TO JESUS

- Two disciples respond.
- Andrew not only follows Jesus but he finds his brother Simon Peter to tell him what he has found.
- He proclaims “We have found the Messiah.”
- Believing in Jesus means telling others about Jesus.
- Every time Andrew is mentioned in this gospel, he is described as bringing someone to Jesus.

# POINTS TO JESUS

- Jesus changes his name.
- When Peter is brought to Jesus, his name is changed.
- This new name says less about Peter and more about Jesus. Jesus knows Peter and knows his purpose.
- This name change illustrates a new direction. We see this in the Old Testament (Abram to Abraham).
- Peter's new name is representative of his authority.

LEAVE THE ORDINARY TO  
FOLLOW THE  
EXTRAORDINARY

*JOHN 1:43-51*

# JESUS CALLS PHILIP

- The next day Jesus goes to Galilee and calls Philip.
- Then Philip finds Nathanael and tell him that they have found the one who was prophesied about and foretold from the Old Testament.
- Once again we see men follow Jesus and then run to tell others about Him so they can become disciples.
- verse 45 - John's theme in his gospel: Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament (Law and Prophets).

# JESUS CALLS PHILIP

- Supernatural knowledge of Jesus.
- As Philip brings Nathanael to Jesus, Jesus calls out to him that he is an Israelite with no deceit.
- Nathanael doesn't understand how Jesus can know that about him. They have never met.
- Jesus goes on to say that before Philip called Nathanael, Jesus saw him under the fig tree.

# JESUS CALLS PHILIP

- Jesus knows all of this because He is the Son of God.
- He is all-knowing and supremely divine.
- For Jews, this kind of knowledge was seen as divine revelation and the sign of a true and great prophet.
- In this case, Jesus uses this to show that He is in fact the Messiah. He was more than a prophet. He is prophet, high priest, and eternal King.

# JESUS CALLS PHILIP

- verse 50 - “you will see greater things than these.”
- Showing His supernatural knowledge was a small sign for Jesus. He explains to them that they will see greater things - pointing to His resurrection.
- Nathanael began the day sitting under a fig tree and ended the day following the Messiah with a promise that he would see things few other men would see.

**APPLICATION:  
TEN TITLES OF JESUS**

# 1. SON OF GOD

- Jesus is called the Son of God and also King of Israel.
- When Jesus tells Nathanael where he was and what was in his heart, Nathanael bursts out in verse 49  
“You are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel.”
- This was a promise given to David (2 Samuel 7) that from him God would establish his kingdom that will last forever.
- Psalm 2 also had the promise of the Son of God.

# 1. SON OF GOD

- Throughout the gospel of John we will see the number of times the Jews wanted to stone him for blasphemy (making Himself out to be God).
  - John 5:18 - why the Jews were seeking to kill him.
  - John 8:57 - before Abraham was, I AM.
  - John 10:33 - we are going to stone you.
  - John 19:7 - make yourself out to be the Son of God.

## 2. SON OF MAN

- Jesus tells Nathanael that he will see angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.
- He apparently is referring to the vision Jacob had in Genesis 28 of angels going up and down a ladder (ascending and descending).
- We also see the phrase “son of man” in Daniel 7:13.
- This is the language of kingship and sovereignty.

# 3. LIGHT

- Jesus is the true light (John 1:9)
- He is not a false god giving a false gospel but the true Messiah giving light to a dark world.
- The adjective (true light) is used nine times in this John's gospel to emphasize that Jesus was the light that shines in the darkness (John 1:5).
- John proclaims that the light is not overcome by the darkness.

# 4. LAMB OF GOD

- Jesus is the Lamb of God (John 1:29).
- Jesus is the perfect and ultimate sacrifice for sin.
- The Old Testament contained prophecies explaining the coming of Christ as a “guilt offering” (Isaiah 53).
- Paul also explains that Jesus Christ is the perfect sacrifice God would provide as an atonement for the sins of His people (Romans 8:3).

# 5. MESSIAH

- Jesus is the Messiah (John 1:41).
- The word messiah means “anointed one.” That is the name given to the deliverer who would save the people of Israel. He would be their savior and king.
- He would also be their redeemer, but also would redeem all people. John the Baptist was first to proclaim that he would take away the sins of the whole world.

# 6. CHRIST

- Jesus is the Christ (John 1:17).
- “Christ” is the Greek equivalent of “Messiah.”
- The name Jesus Christ really means “Jesus the Messiah” or “Jesus the anointed.”
- Jesus was the fulfillment of hundreds of messianic prophecies in the Old Testament. He literally fulfilled all of these prophecies.

# 7. RABBI

- Jesus is a rabbi (John 1:38).
- The first disciples called Him Rabbi (which means Teacher). This was a natural title for Him.
- John also knows that this is a word usually known only to Jews since the days of Hillel (head of the Sanhedrin about B.C. 30), not likely known to Greeks.
- That is why he translates it to his non-Jewish audience (along with Messiah and Cephas).

# 8. KING OF ISRAEL

- Jesus is the King of Israel (John 1:49).
- This was one of the titles of the Messiah.
- It was also the title affixed to the cross of Christ (John 19:18).
- Nathanael used it because he experienced the supernatural knowledge of Jesus.

# 9. THE WORD

- Jesus is the Word (John 1:1).
- John begins with “In the beginning was the Word.”
- The other gospels tell the earthly story of Jesus. John gives us the heavenly story and essentially takes us back in John 1:1 to Genesis 1:1.
- Jesus is God who was there from the very beginning because He is the Creator of the Universe.

# 10. GOD

- Jesus is God (John 1:1).
- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
- The purpose of John’s gospel is that we would believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Messiah, the Lamb of God, the Light of the World, and that He was and is God.

JOHN'S SEVEN  
OBSERVATIONS ABOUT  
JESUS

# 1. JOHN'S GOAL

- Jesus is the goal of the ministry of John the Baptist.
- His ministry was to be a forerunner and to humbly call attention to Jesus.
- We may only be a small part of the conversion story of someone who comes to Christ.
- We are as important in that process as John was to Jesus.

## 2. JESUS THE LAMB

- Jesus is the Lamb of God who removes sin from us and thus gives us power over sin.
- He is our Savior but we live in a world that doesn't think it needs saving.
- There is a place for using the moral law to convict people of sin (lying, murder, adultery).

# 3. SPIRITUAL SIGHT

- Jesus is the giver of spiritual sight.
- We live in a world with spiritual blindness, but so did Jesus. He brought spiritual sight to blind people.
  - John 3:3-8 - Nicodemus and being born again
  - John 4:7-14 - Woman at the well
  - John 6:30-51 - People asking for physical bread

# 4. MESSIAH

- Jesus is the Messiah (John 1:41).
- One of the more powerful arguments for the deity of Christ and the supernatural nature of Scripture is the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy.
- Peter Stoner - probability of eight prophecies.
- This is an effective tool in witnessing to both Jew and Gentile. Jesus proved that He was the Messiah.

# 5. OUR IDENTITY

- Jesus can change our identity (John 1:42).
- Jesus changed the name of Simon to Peter. Matthew explains that *Petros* means rock.
- Jesus can take brokenness of your life and give you a new identity and a new future.

# 6. COMMAND

- Jesus can command allegiance (John 1:43).
- Jesus finds Philip and merely says “Follow me.”
- Jesus chooses you:
  - John 15:16 - “You did not choose me, but I chose you.”
  - John 6:44 - “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”

# 7. KNOW US

- Jesus knows us intimately (John 1:45-48).
- Jesus knew where Nathanael was and what was in his heart. He knew him inside and outside.
- Jesus knows our circumstances. He knows what is going on inside and outside of your life.
- Jesus also knows your heart: what you are thinking and your motivations.

BREAD OF LIFE

Lord of All

HOLY ONE

REDEEMER

DELIVERER

ANointed ONE

Lamb of God

OUR PEACE

SAVIOR

IMMANUEL

MIGHTY ONE

JESUS

WORD OF GOD

GOD WITH US

ALPHA & OMEGA

CHRIST

King of Kings

BELOVED

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

Lord of Lords

SON

MIGHTY GOD

GOOD SHEPHERD

EVERLASTING FATHER

THE WAY THE TRUTH THE LIFE

PRINCE OF PEACE

LION OF JUDAH

MESSIAH

