

# What it Means to Follow Jesus - Come and See - John 1:35-51

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## One Couldn't Help but Ask...

1. In verse 35 it says, "The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples...". In verse 40 Andrew is identified as one of the disciples. Who do you think is the other disciple?
  - a) Based on who you may think it is, why do you think the answer to this question is so important?
  - b) What sort of significance can be inferred by the phrase written by the author in verse 39, "for it was about the tenth hour."?
2. In verse 36 John the Baptist says, "**Behold the Lamb of God!**" again (he said it originally in verse 29). Why is John referring to Jesus in this way again?
3. Several verses, John 1:6-8 & 15, present the picture of John the Baptist coming before Jesus, the "Lamb of God", but not to be confused with being more important than Jesus. Why does John, the author of this book, expound on this point?
  - a) Isn't this an obvious point?
  - b) Is there a problem with people being confused?

## Takeaways

- From "Come and See" to "Follow Me" — "Come and see" is the most basic form of commitment Jesus offers. He works on both parties involved, the one who offers and the one who receives. Those seeking refuge from sin will go and look and by grace find what they are seeking. Those who are not truly seeking, will find nothing of interest. "Come and see" has to end someday and give way to "follow me". This will require the Jesus & the Holy Spirit dwelling in us so that our every step is guided.
- Following Jesus must have an impact on our life, i.e., it must change the way we live. If we continue in the same "old" way living our normal life but claiming we believe, our conversion is not complete. Just as He knew His apostles before He ever met them, Jesus has known us since the beginning of time and has a plan for our lives that will unfold to His glory with or without our consent. Following Jesus requires that we lose our life to Him. We will offer ourselves in service and sacrifice to those we meet and give up furthering our own cause. If we attempt to keep our life, our sinful nature & ways, we will lose it to eternal darkness and damnation.
- Verse 43 - *akolouthēō* - **Follow** - "The verb 'Follow' will be used here in its full sense of 'follow as a disciple'. The present tense has continuous force, 'keep on following'." (Morris) This is not a suggestion. This is a command from an authoritative figure, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.
- We must take Christ seriously in response to His call to follow Him. We have these thoughts from a commentary on John 1 by Matthew Henry. John was a minister of the New Testament, but Christ was the mediator of the New Testament. John was a great man, and had a great name and interest, yet he was forward to give the preference to him to whom it belonged. Note, All the ministers of Christ must prefer him and his interest before

themselves and their own interests; they will make an ill account that seek their own things, not the things of Christ, Phil. 2:21 “For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.”

## Notes

- **Under the fig tree, I saw you:** It is possible Nathanael liked to pray and meditate upon God and His Word under the shade of an actual fig tree. Yet, **under the fig tree** was a phrase Rabbis used to describe meditation on the Scriptures. We can suppose that Nathanael spent time in prayer and in meditating on the Scriptures, and Jesus told him “**I saw you**” there.
- In addition to speaking to people of the first century in words they could understand and painting a word picture, “under a fig tree”, they would most likely be familiar with, John is also relating Jesus’ demonstration that He has the same omnipresent power of God. Because He is God. He says He, as the Son of man, saw Nathanael in a place He had not been to, at a time before the present, His first meeting with Nathanael.
- Chuck Smith (BLB) regarding Phil. 2:21 - What sad indictment against the ministers, even those that were accompanying Paul, and with Paul. "I send Timothy because he has my heart for you; he cares for you as I do. Most everybody else really care for themselves more than they care for you. They are seeking their own welfare above your welfare." That is, the mind that was in Christ is not in them, who emptied Himself.