

# Come & See

Lesson for Sunday, December 29, 2024

TEXT: John 1:35-51

## INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Ice Breaker: What was the best part of your Christmas?
- ⇒ This month we have been working through one of the most important chapters in all the Bible: John 1. For the last four weeks we have tried to build a biblical picture of Who Jesus really is.
- ⇒ The question that we are seeking to answer today is: Now what?
- ⇒ Question: What was your favorite gift this Christmas and why did you want it?
  - Many times, the reason we want something is because of an endorsement.
  - Politicians and products all long for endorsements – the star athlete, actor or musician.
  - While we may not put a lot of credit in the endorsements of the rich and famous, we will often put a lot of stock in the endorsement of friends.
- ⇒ As we wrap up our study of John 1, we are introduced to four men who offer compelling endorsements of Jesus Christ.
  - They are not celebrities. They are not paid spokesmen. They are simple, ordinary men whose lives have been transformed by Jesus Christ.

## BIBLE STUDY:

1. John the Baptist (vs. 35-36)
  - a. As we saw in last week's lesson, John the Baptist said what he believed. His purpose was to prepare men and women for the coming of Jesus.
  - b. It is interesting to note that John was willing to sacrifice to point people to Jesus.
    - i. When Jesus came on the scene, John willingly passed his disciples to on to Jesus. John was a convinced when it came to Jesus!
    - ii. ILL: After the recent election, it was revealed that one candidate paid millions of dollars for celebrity endorsements. What did most think when they learned about this fact? "I would endorse anyone for one million dollars!"
    - iii. John didn't have to earn anything – he was even willing to sacrifice.
  - c. John's endorsement rings true because he willingly gave up everything, particularly his influence and authority, to testify to the reality of Who Jesus was.
2. Andrew (vs. 37-42)
  - a. In verse 41, we read that Andrew "found the Messiah." The word translated *found* implies someone was diligently searching for something and then joyously discovers it.
  - b. Andrew's search reminds us of the parables we read about the man who discovered a treasure buried in a field (Matthew 13), and the man who left his 99 sheep to pursue the one who had gone missing (Matthew 18).
  - c. With the intensity of a shepherd looking for his lost sheep and the joy of a man who discovered a great treasure, Andrew endorses Jesus to his brother.
  - d. Andrew had met Jesus in verses 35-38 and had the chance to spend time with Him. What a discussion that must have been!

- e. While we don't know what they spoke about, we clearly see the impact that conversation made. Andrew runs quickly from that place to find his brother and makes a clear endorsement of Jesus Christ.
3. Philip (vs. 43-46)
    - a. Philip's introduction to Jesus is only briefly described in these four verses.
    - b. Philip makes a bold endorsement in vs. 45 calling Jesus the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises.
    - c. Jesus is the One to Whom all of the Law and Prophets testified. Jesus made a similar statement about Himself in John 5:39-40.
    - d. Philip makes his endorsement of Jesus: The OT Scriptures are all about Jesus!
  4. Nathanael (vs. 46-51)
    - a. Nathanael's first response to hearing about Jesus is not positive (46). In response to his doubt, Philip brings him to Jesus.
    - b. When Nathanael meets Jesus, his heart is instantly exposed. Nathanael is powerfully struck by Jesus's omniscience. Jesus saw both the outside and inside of Nathanael.
    - c. As soon as he understood Jesus was the Messiah, he then testified that Jesus was God's Son – His Son who had the right to rule over all the nations (49).
    - d. It's difficult to reject Nathanael's endorsement of Jesus since his first response is disbelief.
    - e. Nathanael knew the Scripture, and they said nothing of Nazareth. But when Jesus confronted him, Nathanael could do nothing less than endorse Jesus Christ.

#### APPLICATION:

- ⇒ All four of these men did not hesitate to endorse Jesus. They were not content to simply follow Jesus themselves, they went out of their way to point others to Him.
  - The reality is that we all endorse something or someone.
  - What is your life endorsement? Are you pointing people to Jesus? Are you a good representative?
- ⇒ Lifeguards are trained to notice people who are struggling in the water and to immediately respond. We wouldn't think much of a lifeguard who knew people were struggling, but they continued to sit under their umbrella and refuse to help.
  - How often do we do this? How often do we stay in our seats and stay silent when we know we are surrounded with people that have a tremendous need.
  - Are we willing to get out of our comfortable area and help them?