

Come and See: Discover the Truth about Jesus

John 1:35-51

The latter part of the first chapter of John's gospel shows people beginning to follow Jesus and become his disciples. It illustrates a key principle about witnessing. ***People come to Christ through our witness.*** Our role is to introduce people to Jesus and let him do the rest.

The witness of John the Baptist and Andrew (35-42)

John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God to two of his disciples. The two leave and start following Jesus (35-37).

“Follow” (37) means to walk behind someone and to turn your allegiance to the person.

Jesus asked the two men why they were following him and what they wanted from him (38). He wanted them to clarify their expectations.

Only by coming to Jesus could these men really comprehend what they were seeking spiritually.

One of the men was Andrew. (The other is not named.) Andrew became one of the twelve disciples, and immediately went to bring his brother to Jesus (40-42).

Jesus saw Simon and anticipated what he would become. Jesus gave him a nickname, Peter (Rock), that expressed his character (42).

Every time we meet Andrew in this gospel, he is bringing someone to Jesus (1:41-42; 6:8; 12:22).

The witness of Philip (43-51)

The next day, Jesus leaves for Galilee (43). He finds Philip and invites him to come.

Philip finds his friend, Nathanael, and tells him about Jesus (45). Nathanael doubted the Messiah could come from such a lowly place as Nazareth. Rather than argue with his friend, Philip simply says, “Come and see” (46).

Jesus declared Nathanael as an Israelite without deceit (47). (He was the opposite of the original Israel, Jacob, who was very deceitful.)

“Under the fig tree” could describe a location where Nathanael was sitting (48). It was also used in rabbinic literature to describe meditation on the law.

Nathanael was surprised at Jesus’ supernatural insight and regarded him as the Messiah, the Son of God (49). Jesus replied that Nathanael had not seen anything yet (50).

Jesus used the imagery of Jacob’s dream at Bethel (Genesis 28) to describe the greater revelation that Nathanael and his fellow disciples would receive (51).

This passage illustrates four approaches to evangelism (adapted from *Swindoll’s Living Insights, New Testament Commentary: John*, by Charles R. Swindoll)

- Mass evangelism (35-39) – Ministry of John the Baptist proclaiming Jesus as the Lamb of God.
- Personal evangelism (40-42) – Ministry of Andrew telling his brother, Simon, about Jesus.
- Contact evangelism (43-44) – No previous contact between Jesus and Philip. Divine appointment.
- Word evangelism (45-51) – Ministry of the Word of God in someone’s life.

How did you come to faith in Jesus?

What method can you use to share Christ with others?