

Pt 8 Calling of the Disciples – John 1:35-42

A sermon series in the Gospel of John, by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church www.pbcknox.com

John 1:35-42

35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;
36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!
37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.
38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, **What seek ye?** They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?
39 He saith unto them, **Come and see.** They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.
40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.
41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.
42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, **Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.**

The events in our text this morning, occurred the next day after John had declared as Jesus passed by: **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.** Then he gave a recount of the day he baptized Jesus.

35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

We know that John the Baptist had disciples even before Jesus did. The word disciple simply means: A pupil, student, or a learner. These would be those who follow John the Baptist around and learn from his teachings.

If I counted correctly, there are 12 different Bible verses that mention John's disciples; however, the only disciple that is named, as we see down in verse 40, is Andrew.

Here in our text it says there are two of his disciples there. One of them is Andrew and the other is not named. Most believe that the other one is probably the Gospel writer, John.

There is good evidence that Apollos was one of John the Baptist's disciples because of what we read in **Acts 18:24-25** *And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.* This is why Apollos was one of John's disciples.

Interestingly enough, there is a religious group that still exists today who declare themselves to be disciples of John the Baptist. The religion is Mandaeism, which means, "having knowledge." So they are a gnostic religion which believes in salvation of the soul through knowledge of the divine origin. Those who practice it are called Mandaeans. They are based in Iraq and Iran. They worship along the Tigris River in Baghdad near where ancient Babylon was. They practice ritual baptism modeled after John the Baptist. The Mandaeans immerse themselves in the running water three times to ease the worries of life and relieve any sin they have committed. The odd thing about this religion is they reject Jesus Christ and call him a false Messiah, yet they revere John the Baptist and call him the last great prophet.

36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

Again, John proclaims Jesus to be the "Lamb of God." As we mentioned last time,

Jesus fulfilled all of the necessary qualifications to be the sacrificial lamb to take away the sin of the world:

- A sacrificial lamb had to be unspotted, unblemished, perfect.
- A sacrificial lamb was gentle and able to be led to the sacrifice.
- A sacrificial lamb had to be sufficient to offer up for sin.

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

This was the whole purpose of John's ministry; to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah. Obviously these two disciples understood and believed Jesus to be the Messiah based off what they had learned from John's teaching, so they began following Jesus instead of John.

Not all of John's disciples would be like these two disciples. Some were jealous of Jesus as we will study when we get to chapter 3: **John 3:25-26** *Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. 26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.*

But these two disciples willingly followed Jesus.

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, **What seek ye?** They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

Notice Jesus did not ask them "Who seek ye," he asked, "**What seek ye?**" They know who he is, and he knows that. They refer to him as "**Rabbi.**" And the Gospel writer, John, even provides the interpretation of that word: (**which is to say, being interpreted, Master**). The Jews, out of respect, called their teachers "Rabbi," which was an honorary title for a great teacher.

Interestingly enough, Jesus instructed his disciples not to allow others to call them Rabbi: **Matthew 23:8** *But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.* This is one reason I refer to myself as Brother Byron instead of Dr. Chesney. Even though I have a doctorate degree.

These two disciples ask Jesus: **where dwellest thou?**

This was not just some random question they blurted out. They wanted to know where he was lodging so they could come and be taught by him. They did not want to hinder his travel by asking him a bunch of questions while he walked.

A lot of people today want to get the Cliff Notes version of Jesus. They don't want to spend time reading his Word, praying, and communing with Him, they want to do a Google search and absorb what they can in a few minutes and then move on. Listen, to get to know the Lord you need to spend time with him and dwell with him. These disciples did not want a "drive-by" lesson, they wanted to sit down and get fed by the Master.

39 He saith unto them, **Come and see.** They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

Have you noticed Jesus is always giving an invitation for us to come to him? We see in the Gospel of Matthew; Jesus gives an invitation:

Matthew 11:28-30 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Again in the Gospel of **Matthew 25:34** Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

In the Gospel of **Mark 8:34** And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

In the Gospel of **John 7:37-38** In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

That's all he wants from us, to come unto him. It's always His invitation and it's always NOW. He doesn't say, "Come unto me at a later date, or the day after tomorrow, or next week, month, or year. Jesus bids us to come now.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)

Back to our text in **John 1:39b...** They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

These two disciples of John submitted to his invitation, and they came and saw where he dwelt. The Bible says it was about the tenth hour. In Jewish time that would be around 4:00 pm.

40 One of the two which heard John *speak*, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. **41** He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

Andrew wasted no time to share the good news of the Messiah. He went and found his brother and told him all about it. There is no doubt Andrew understood exactly who Jesus was. He wasn't just a great teacher or good Master; he was the very Messiah. Here in John's Gospel the spelling is rendered from the Greek, "**Messias.**" The word Messiah means "**The Anointed One,**" or as John gives us the interpretation: "**the Christ.**" This is the title of Jesus, not his personal name, but his title as **the one who has come to anoint.** He's prophet, priest, and king.

Andrew's actions are those that should be found in every Christian. A desire to tell others the good new of Christ, so that they too can come and know Him.

42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, **Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.**

We see here the divine omniscience of Jesus, which means "he knows all things." He knew exactly who Peter was, and who his father was. But Jesus also knew the heart of Peter and saw in him something that no one else could see. Peter was a rock of a man, and he called him Cephas. Again, John interprets the name Cephas and says it means "**A stone.**"

We know that Jesus mightily used Peter (Cephas) the Rock to usher in the New Testament Church. Look over in the Gospel of Matthew:

Matthew 16:13-19

13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?**

14 And they said, **Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others,**

Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?**

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**

18 And I say also unto thee, **That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

It is clear that Peter fully understood who Jesus was as well; "the Christ, the Son of the living God." No truer words were ever spoken. Sure, Peter had his faults, but his heart was for Christ 100 percent.

I think this should show us that Jesus knows each of our hearts and can use anyone to fulfill his purpose. Man probably would never have placed such trust in Peter. He was nothing but an uneducated fisherman... I'm glad Jesus doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called.

Don't let the Romand Catholic church confuse you on who Peter is. They believe that Peter was the foundation of the Church but that's not so. Peter himself tells us who the foundation of the Church is on:

Acts 4:1-12

1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

3 And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

5 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, **By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?**

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, **Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,**

9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

We aren't going to read it this morning but in **Acts Chapter 2** we read where Peter was the one whom Jesus used to preach on the Day of Pentecost when over 3,000 souls were saved, and the Holy Ghost empowered the Church.