

“Following Christ”

John 1: 35-42

Joh 1:35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;
Joh 1:36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!
Joh 1:37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.
Joh 1:38 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?
Joh 1:39 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.
Joh 1:40 One of the two which heard John *speak*, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.
Joh 1:41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.
Joh 1:42 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.

Last Wednesday evening we considered verses 31-33 under the headings –

The Great Purpose – verse 31

The Great Provision – verse 32-33

Verse 34 is the great proclamation! Christ is the Son of God!!

We are not going to deal with this verse but this is the constant theme of John's Gospel so it will not be ignored!!

So –

We come this morning to verses 35-42 under the title – “Following Christ”

There are four headings to outline this passage –

1. An Introduction to Christ (verses 35-36)
2. An Interest in Christ (verses 37-38)
3. An Invitation from Christ (verse 39)

4. A Conviction regarding Christ (verses 40-42)

1. An Introduction to Christ (verses 35-36)

Joh 1:35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;
Joh 1:36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the
Lamb of God!

Note 1,

This is the third day.

“Again the next day after”

Compare verse 29.

Note 2,

The Contrast –

“John **stood**, **and** two of **his disciples**”

With –

“And looking upon **Jesus as he walked**”

Consider –

There is a principle here of standing still to recognise and receive the blessing of God!

We see this illustrated in the last verse of 1 Samuel 9 where Saul is about to be anointed.

1Sa 9:27 *And* as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but **stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.**

Note 3,

Their focus.

Joh 1:36 **And looking upon Jesus** as he walked, he saith, **Behold the Lamb of God!**

Consider –

The Apostle John, who is traditionally recognised as one of the two disciples with the Baptist at this point later in his life would have two more visions of the Lamb of God.

This one here is Predictive

The Second is Realised –

Joh 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

Joh 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

Joh 19:27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

Joh 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

Joh 19:29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth.

Joh 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

The Third is Celebratory

Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Rev 5:7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

Rev 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

Rev 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

2. An Interest in Christ (verses 37-38)

Joh 1:37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

Joh 1:38 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?

1 – Their Interest is instigated by the words of John –

“And the two disciples heard him speak”

2 – Their Interest manifested by following the Lord –

“and they followed Jesus”

3 – Their Interest noticed by the Lord –

“Then Jesus turned, and saw them following”

Matthew Henry –

They came behind him; but, though he had his back towards them, he was soon aware of them, and *turned, and saw them following*.

Note, Christ takes early cognizance of the first motions of a soul towards him, and the first step taken in the way to heaven; see [Isa 64:5](#); [Luk 15:20](#).

4 – Their Interest investigated by the Lord –

“and saith unto them, What seek ye?”

Matthew Henry –

He did not stay till they begged leave to speak with him, but spoke first. What communion there is between a soul and Christ, it is he that *begins the discourse*.

He saith unto them, *What seek ye?* This was not a reprimand for their boldness in intruding into his company: he that came to *seek us* never checked any for *seeking* him; but, on the contrary, it is a kind invitation of them into his acquaintance whom he saw bashful and modest: “Come, what have you to say to me? What is your petition? What is your request.”

Note, Those whose business it is to instruct people in the affairs of their souls should be humble, and mild, and easy of access, and should encourage those that apply to them.

The question Christ put to them is what we should all put to ourselves when we begin to follow Christ, and take upon us the profession of his holy religion: “*What seek ye?* What do we design and desire?”

Those that *follow* Christ, and yet *seek* the world, or themselves, or the praise of men, deceive themselves. “*What seek we* in seeking Christ? Do we seek a teacher, ruler, and reconciler? In following Christ, do we seek the favour of God and eternal life?” If our *eye* be *single* in this, we are *full of light*.

5 – Their Interest Expressed -

“They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?”

M. Henry -

(1.) In calling him *Rabbi*, they intimated that their design in coming to him was to be *taught by him*; *rabbi* signifies a *master*, a teaching master; the Jews called their doctors, or learned men, *rabbies*. The word comes from *rab*, *multus* or *magnus*, a *rabbi*, a *great man*, and one that, as we say, has *much in him*. Never was there such a *rabbi* as our Lord Jesus, such a *great one*, in whom were *hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*.

These came to Christ to be his scholars, so must all those that apply themselves to him. John had told them that he was the *Lamb of God*; now this *Lamb* is worthy to *take the book and open the seals* as a *rabbi*, Rev 5:9. And, unless we give up ourselves to be ruled and taught by him, he will *not take away our sins*.

(2.) In asking *where he dwelt*, they intimate a desire to be better acquainted with him. Christ was a stranger in this country, so that they meant where was his *inn* where he *lodged*; for there they would attend him at some seasonable time, when he should appoint, to receive instruction from him; they would not press rudely upon him, when it was not proper. Civility and good manners well become those

who follow Christ. And, besides, they hoped to have more from him than they could have in a short conference now by the way.

They resolved to make a business, not a by-business of conversing with Christ. Those that have had some communion with Christ cannot but desire, [1.] A *further communion* with him; they follow on to know more of him. [2.] A *fixed communion* with him; where they may sit down at his feet, and abide by his instructions. It is not enough to take a turn with Christ now and then, but we must *lodge with him*.

3. An Invitation from Christ (verse 39)

Joh 1:39 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.

(Note the gospel principles and symbolism)

1. It is a Simple Invitation

“He saith unto them, Come and see”

Matthew Henry –

(1.) He invites them to come to his lodgings: the nearer we approach to Christ, the more we see of his beauty and excellency.

Deceivers maintain their interest in their followers by keeping them at a distance, but that which Christ desired to recommend him to the esteem and affections of his followers was that they would *come and see*: “*Come and see* what a mean lodging I have, what poor accommodations I take up with, that you may not expect any worldly advantage by following me, as they did who made their court to the scribes and Pharisees, and called them rabbin. *Come and see* what you must count upon if you follow me.” See Mat 8:20.

(2.) He invites them to come *immediately* and without delay. They asked where he lodged, that they might wait upon him at a more convenient season; but Christ invites them immediately to *come and see*; never in better time than now. Hence learn, [1.] As to others, that it is best taking people when they are in a good mind; strike while the iron is hot. [2.] As to ourselves, that it is wisdom to embrace the present opportunities: *Now is the accepted time*, 2Co 6:2.

2. It is an Accepted Invitation

“They came and saw where he dwelt”

3. It is a Sustained Invitation

“and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour”

4. A Conviction regarding Christ (verses 40-42)

Joh 1:40 One of the two which heard John *speak*, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

Joh 1:41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

Joh 1:42 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.

1. An Identification

Joh 1:40 One of the two which heard John *speak*, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

2. The Conviction Demonstrated

Joh 1:41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

Joh 1:42 And he brought him to Jesus.

3. The Conviction Rewarded and a new Identification

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.

