

Come and See

Intro

- 2nd week of our series- The Great Invite
- Last week The Heavens are opened
 - Learned that salvation is an ongoing process
 - Saying yes to Jesus is the 1st step in the process
 - Baptism marks that decision
 - Living a holy life is the key salvation
 - i. Worship
 - ii. Reading and hearing the word
 - iii. Communion
 - iv. Private Prayer
 - v. Studying scripture
 - vi. Fasting
 - vii. Works of mercy, demonstrating Christ's love through words and actions
- This Week= Come and See
 - Two things
 - 1. Where do you see yourself?
 - 2. What ways you can use invite others?

John 1:29-42 ESV

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." 35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

Opening

- Story is about people seeking out Jesus b/c someone has referred them
- Jesus responds to these people with an invitation
- Most of us got to Jesus by referral
 - Remember the person or place
 - For me it was going to a youth group of a church I didn't belong to
 - My sisters, my oldest sister who was going to meet/hang out with boys
 - I was 11 years old
 - What about you?
 - Hopefully you invited someone this past week

- Give them a chance to have the same experience you did
 - A personal invite
 - Share my posts from Ebenezer's facebook page and invite
- Witnessing, Evangelism, sharing testimony
 - Someone ever asked you, 'Why are you a Christian?'
 - 'Why are you a Methodist?'
 - Someone or your own child, or that one person we wrote down almost two years ago
 - How would you answer?
 - Tell them they were in danger of going to hell, BTW if you lead with that it hardly ever works
 - Smoking unit in Health
 - My way/Your way should be their way- Again hardly ever works
 - Your Story
 - Ask yourself= What could I say that might invite someone else see what I have seen in Jesus?

Today's story in John 1

- I. Testimony of John the Baptist (v. 29-36)
 - A. Identifies who Jesus is
 1. Lamb of God
 2. Isaiah 53:7 ESV

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.
 3. Blood of the Lamb that takes away sin
 - a) Earlier in John 1 John the Baptist says that Jesus is the 'Lamb that takes away the sin of the world'
 - B. Maybe you identify with John's testimony
 1. Seen or experienced something personally that confirmed Jesus as Messiah for you
 2. Saw face of Christ
 3. Heard voice of God
 4. If that is you share it
 - a) Others
 - b) Me
 - c) The church
 - d) Tell your testimony
- II. Testimony of the Two (v.37-39)
 - A. John points out to his two friends that Jesus is the Lamb of God
 - B. After hearing it, the two friends follow Jesus
 - C. Friendship
 1. True friendship is leading others to Jesus
 2. John loses two of his disciples b/c he knew that Jesus was more important than him
 3. Another place John the Baptist says, 'He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease' (John 3:30 ESV)
 - D. Jesus does two things
 1. Asks them what they are looking for
 - a) Answer reveals motives
 - b) Jesus does this a lot

- c) 'Heart' Proverbs 21:2 ESV
Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart.
- d) Ask ourselves "What are our motives for following/seeking Jesus"
- 2. Invites them to 'come and see'
 - a) Didn't ask for a decision on the spot
 - (1) Sometimes appropriate
 - b) These two men seem to really become followers after extended time in his presence
Psalms 105:4 ESV
Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!
 - (1) Take time to get to know him
 - (2) Investment in relationship 1st before decision to follow is made
 - c) Invited them to See for themselves, 'Seeing is believing'
 - (1) We can't make the decision for someone else
 - (2) They have to do it, it is their choice

E. Some people need time to make decision

- 1. Maybe that was you?
- 2. Some people can't point to the exact moment and that is ok
- 3. Last week= Assurance that you are saved, relief knowing that sins are forgiven

F. Questions to Consider

- 1. Have you spent time in the presence of the Lord?
- 2. What was it like?
- 3. What happened?
- 4. What has spending time with Jesus done for you?
 - a) Reflect

III. Andrew invites Peter (v.40-42)

A. Had been with Jesus a while

B. 'We have found the Messiah'

C. Invites Peter to come and see for himself

- 1. So exciting that he had to talk about it
 - a) Football- National Championship game, Falcons
 - b) Deal that you got on something
 - c) Jesus
- 2. Andrew tells Peter, Come look at this
 - a) Middle school
 - b) Me and smells
 - c) Testify/Testimony

(1) 1 John 5:11-12 ESV 11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

d) Jesus is worth talking about and seeing, he is worth inviting others to experience

D. What happened to Peter as a result of this invite?

- 1. Jesus gives him a new name v.42
- 2. When we meet Jesus he gives us a new name
 - a) Revelation 2:17 (ESV)

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white

stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

- b) The old is gone
 - (1) Removes our sins as far as the east is from west
 - (2) New creation

Closing

1. Evangelist
 - a. Most of the time= Billy Graham, or someone similar
 - b. Sidewalk preacher= Winder
 - c. Means 'disciple who shares the good news of Jesus Christ
 - d. Want you to think of yourself as one
2. How to be one
 - a. Talking about it more over the next few weeks
 - b. First, think about why you said yes to Jesus
 - i. Search your own heart
 - c. Second, your story
 - i. Share your story
 - ii. The Testimony of Jesus= he is life, he gives us eternal life
 - iii. Psalm 40:10-11 ESV
10 I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation. 11 As for you, O Lord, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!
 - d. Third, invite someone/others to 'come and see' for themselves
3. Questions
 - a. How is Jesus reaching out to you?
 - b. How is Jesus inviting followers through you?

The good news is that Jesus is walking by and inviting us to come and see for ourselves! He is reaching out to each of us in the unique way we need him to and to all those we invite as well! Today is the day to come and see!