

"The Disciples of Jesus Christ"

John 1:35-51

Introduction: Two weeks ago, we looked at John's declaration of Jesus Christ in John 1:29-34. John declared Jesus to be "The Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world", and he declared Him to be the "Son of God". John's ministry was to point people to Jesus Christ and that is precisely what John did. Tonight, in our study we are going to watch as John points his disciples to Jesus Christ. We have the privilege tonight of watching as Jesus will meet His first two disciples. In the section before us there is much for us to learn.

➤ **The First Disciples**

Notice John 1:35

Here we see that there were two disciples of John standing with him. We are only told of the name of one of these men and that was Andrew. It is believed by many that the other disciple was John, the writer of this very letter, but we have no proof of that. The fact that these two disciples were with John tells us that they believed the message of John of the coming Messiah.

Notice John 1:36-37

John did as he was called to do and he pointed his disciples to Jesus Christ. John was not looking to gather followers for himself, but he was looking to point people to Jesus so that they might have eternal life.

Let us not miss the simple but profound statement that was made by John. He pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" It was this statement that brought about faith within them.

Application:

Let us understand that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

Romans 10:14-17

¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

¹⁵ *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

¹⁶ *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?*

¹⁷ *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

We often wonder what we should say to our lost friends and loved ones. John gives us the answer here. Tell them who Jesus is. He is the Saviour of the world who died for their sins. He is the Lamb of God. The message does not need to be long, but it only needs to be Jesus centered. Paul reminds us that if people do not hear then they cannot possibly believe. Keep in mind that we do not do the saving, that is God's miraculous work. Our responsibility is to share the Truth of who Jesus Christ is. This simple message of John would forever change the lives of these two disciples. We see that they followed Jesus. This has a twofold meaning. They followed Him that day and they also followed Him the rest of their lives. Let me also point out here that this is what faith looks like. True saving faith will bring about a change in a person's life, and it will make you thirsty for the Living Water and it will make you hungry for the Bread of Life.

James 2:17-20

¹⁷ *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

¹⁸ *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

¹⁹ *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

²⁰ *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

James is not saying that salvation is by faith plus works. He is saying that True faith produces a change in a person. The works are evidence of a change in the person's heart.

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Notice John 1:36 again.

I want you to notice that we are told that Jesus "WALKED." I point this out because we are reminded that these two disciples had to make a decision to follow Jesus at that moment because had they waited Jesus would have moved on.

Application:

This is a reminder to all who are not saved that the opportunity to follow Jesus may be here today, but it could be gone tomorrow. If you hesitate to follow today, then all chances may be gone tomorrow. Life is but a vapor and we are here today and then we die. The window of opportunity is so small compared to eternity.

James 4:13-14

¹³ *Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:*

¹⁴ *Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

Notice John 1:38

The question which Jesus asks here is so very piercing to the reader. These are the very first Words of Jesus in the Gospel of John, "What are you seeking for?" He asks these two disciples, "What seek ye?" In other words, "What are you looking for," or "What do you desire?" This is a great question for all of us to consider. Why do we follow Jesus? What is our desire as we follow Him? There are many people who follow Jesus for the wrong reasons. The people of Jesus day did the very same thing.

John 6:2

² *And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.*

These multitudes followed Jesus for physical blessings, but they had no desire for a relationship with Him. They were not concerned for their spiritual needs. This is also true today. There are people that attend church regularly because they desire physical blessings. They are only concerned for worldly gain. They have no desire for a relationship with Jesus which is what True salvation is. A Biblical example of this is seen in the life of Judas. He followed Jesus but he was not saved. He believed that Jesus was going to set up

His Kingdom and Judas was only concerned with a prominent position within the Kingdom. The disciples all believed that Jesus would set up His Kingdom while He was with them.

Matthew 20:20-21

²⁰ Then came to him the mother of Zebedees children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

²¹ And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

Judas only cared about a position in the Kingdom. He had no desire for salvation. Therefore, like many others, Judas followed for the wrong reason. Getting back to the question, "What do you seek?" Our Lord has a way of asking questions that prick the soul.

Genesis 3:8-9

⁸ And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

⁹ And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

Genesis 3:13

¹³ And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

Genesis 16:7-8

⁷ And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.

⁸ And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.

1 Kings 19:9

⁹ And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

Matthew 20:30-32

³⁰ And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.

³¹ And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.

³² And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you?

Mark 8:36-37

³⁶ For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

³⁷ Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Let us get back to John.

Notice John 1:38 again.

The answer of the disciples was "Where dwellest thou?" How are we to understand this answer? They desired to know where the Lord was dwelling so they might go there to spend more time with Him. These men were looking for the Messiah and as John pointed to Him, they followed Jesus and they desired to go where He was living so that they might enjoy time alone with Him. What a wonderful desire we see within these two men. Longing to have time to sit at the feet of Jesus.

Application:

This same desire should be within our hearts as well. We should long to spend time alone with our Lord to sit at His feet and learn. But we live in a busy world and often believers get caught up in the affairs of life and they have little or no time for Jesus.

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

⁴¹ *And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:*

⁴² *But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*

Notice John 1:39

Jesus gave them the invitation to join Him where He was dwelling and they accepted it. They went and they stayed with Jesus for the remainder of the day. We are not told what the conversation was about, but we can be sure they did not talk about the weather. What a time this must have been as they sat and listened to Jesus expound to them the Old Testament.

Conclusion/application:

This invitation to come to spend time with Him is still offered to each of us today. The question is, "Do we really want to make sacrifices to spend time with our Lord?"

It is interesting here that John tells us it is the tenth hour. This is probably Roman time therefore it would be 10:00 am. Keep in mind these men have jobs and for this day they set aside all work to spend time with Jesus Christ. They were willing to sacrifice in order to sit with Jesus for the day. Notice also that we are not told where Jesus was dwelling. This is left out for a reason. Today He dwells within each of us who know Him as our Savior. Therefore, I do not need to travel to a certain place I can spend time alone with Him any place where I can get time away from the noise of the world.

Psalm 46:8-10

⁸ *Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.*

⁹ *He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.*

¹⁰ **Be still, and know that I am God:** *I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*