

"The Disciples of Jesus Christ"

John 1:35-51

Introduction: Last week in our study we looked at the first two disciples of Jesus Christ which John mentions. They were Andrew and the other disciple is not named. Many believe it was John who is the writer of this Gospel. These two disciples were disciples of John the Baptist and John pointed them to Jesus Christ. When they began to follow Jesus ask them a very searching question, "What seek ye?" This is a question that needs to be presented to each of us. What are we searching for in life? Why do we follow Jesus? As we said last week there are many who follow for all the wrong reasons. The purpose in following our Lord should be to know Him deeper so that we might be more like Him. Jesus will later define eternal life for us.

John 17:3

³ And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Notice John 1:35-39

These two men followed Jesus and then stayed the rest of the day with Jesus where He was dwelling. We are not told specifically what was discussed in their time with the Lord but as we move on, we get some information that gives us some insight concerning their time with the Lord.

➤ **The First Disciples**

➤ **Part 2**

Notice John 1:40

Here we are introduced to Andrew who is the brother of Peter.

Notice John 1:41

The very FIRST thing that Andrew does is that he finds his brother Peter. It is what he says that we need to take note of. He does not say, "We THINK we have found the Messiah." But instead, he declares, "We have found the Messiah!" This tells us that their time spent with Jesus was truly time well spent. The Truth he learned on that day would forever change his life as well as the other disciple.

Application:

The time we spend with our Lord is priceless. The Truths learned at His feet are Truths that will forever change our lives. As we considered last week it is on each of us to make the sacrifices in life to have the time to sit at His feet. It is on us to search our hearts to be sure we have a desire to spend time with Him. If there is no desire, then there is surely a problem with the heart. Each believer has within them the Holy Spirit and He desires the things of the Lord. Therefore, if we lose our desire then we can be sure that the Spirit of God is being quenched in our lives. Let us notice what happened at Ephesus.

Revelation 2:1-4

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write: These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks:

² I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

³ And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

⁴ Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Notice John 1:42

As Andrew found Peter, he then brought him to Jesus. There was an excitement in Andrew that he could not contain. There was a joy that he just had to share with his brother. No doubt they both had been anticipating the coming of the Messiah. They had found the Messiah but there was much that they would need to learn. They were expecting Him to set up the Kingdom but that would not happen at His first coming but instead He would go to the cross and suffer and die for the sins of the world. We see their misunderstanding in Matthew.

Matthew 16:18-23

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.

²⁰ Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

²¹ From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

²² Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

²³ But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Application:

This is a really good reminder to each of us. We often have preconceived ideas about how the Lord might intervene in certain situations, but we may not even be close in our thoughts. Let us understand that God knows our lives from the beginning to the end and He is sanctifying us each and every day. Therefore, there may be times in life when we are looking to escape the trials and the pressures of life but it may be His plan to send us into the trials so that He can use the trial to make us more like Jesus Christ. Let us consider a few examples.

Matthew 14:20-31

²⁰ And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

²¹ And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

²² And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

²³ And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

²⁴ But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

²⁶ And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

²⁷ But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

²⁸ And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

²⁹ And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Had it not been for going into the storm Peter would never have walked on the water nor would he and the others learn the lesson about keeping their eyes on the Lord in the midst of the storms of life.

Another example would be Joseph and all he went through for 13 years before he became the Prime Minister of Egypt. Then there are Daniel's friends being cast into the fiery furnace and the way in which God used that situation in the life of Nebuchadnezzar.

Getting back to our text, the first disciples believed that Jesus was the Messiah and they were correct but there was much that they would need to learn about the Lord's ways as they moved forward.

Notice John 1:42 again.

When Peter met Jesus, his name was changed to Cephas which means a stone. The word here is "petros" which is not the same word that Jesus used in Matthew 16.

Matthew 16:15-18

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.*

The word used for "rock" here is "petra" and is different than the word Jesus used in John 1 which is "petros". Why does it matter? Because the word in John 1:42 is referring to Peter and it means, "a rock or a stone." The word in Matthew 16 refers to Jesus and it refers to "an extremely large Rock." It would be like a rock cliff or very large stone. The church would be built upon the Rock of Jesus Christ not on Peter the stone. He would be a stone, but the church is not built upon Peter.

Let us get back to Jesus' statement concerning Peter. If you and I had looked at Peter, knowing what he would do as far as mistakes, we would never have referred to him as a stone. But let us understand that Jesus knew what Peter would do and He still referred to him as a stone. Why was this? Because Jesus was not focused upon what Peter was at that time, but Jesus looked at him and saw him for what he could become. Peter would make many mistakes, but the Lord would stay right by his side the entire way through his life.

Application:

Have you ever thought that you were useless because of failures in your life? Notice what an unnamed writer penned concerning Peter.

"Through all of Peter's ups and downs, the Lord Jesus remained his loving Lord and faithful Guide. After His resurrection, Jesus specifically named Peter as one who needed to hear the good news.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter was the main speaker to the crowd in Jerusalem, and the Church began with an influx of about 3,000 new believers. Later, Peter healed a lame beggar and preached boldly before the Sanhedrin. Even arrest, beatings, and threats could not dampen Peter's resolve to preach the risen Christ (Acts 5).

Peter preached on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Then, he was present when the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8). Finally, he was summoned to the home of the Roman centurion Cornelius, who received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10). In this way, Peter "unlocked" three different worlds and opened the door of the Church to Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles."

Do you see what God can do with a man who makes mistakes? This is just a glimpse of what the Lord can do with imperfect people. This is great encouragement to all of us. We have

all failed and will fail again but God is faithful. His grace is inexhaustible and His love endures forever.

Conclusion:

Psalm 37:23-24

²³ *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*

²⁴ *Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.*

Romans 8:34-39

³⁴ *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

³⁹ *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*