

Come and See

- John 1:43-51

Suggested Questions from the Text

Read through the passage from Sunday. These questions are designed to help you consider the text as you read.

John 1:43-44 – He Found Philip

- What encouragement can we take from the truth that we are *'found and called'* by Jesus?
- Did you feel *'lost'*, before God found you? How can we misunderstand the desires of *'the lost'*?

John 1:45-46 – We Have Found Him

- Philip eagerly went straight to Nathanael – who do you go to, eager to share the good news?
- How can we be tempted to put-off sharing the gospel, fearing we only have partial or inaccurate knowledge?
- What pre-conceived opinions about Christianity and the Church prevent friends/family from investigating more?

John 1:47-51 – I Saw You

- What do your friends/family expect from Church? How can we invite them to *'come and see'* authentic Christianity?
- Have you experienced a similar, personal and intimate, interaction with Jesus? How did it affect you?

Sermon Overview (Come and See)

Jesus is now gathering His disciples - those he would spend majority of next three years with - teaching and training them within the context of friendship. Jesus continues to call people to follow Him – by the Holy Spirit applying His Words to our hearts as they are read and heard in moments like these. To be a Christian is to follow Jesus. The Church exists to call this world to *'come and see'* the One who calls all people to *'come and follow'*.

Philip - the Eager, if Errant, Evangelist (verses 43-45)

We don't really get a lot of information about Philip – or his first encounter with Jesus. We know he is from Bethsaida, the same village as Andrew and Peter. Other than that, the only information we have about Philip is that he has been found by Jesus, and called by Jesus – but this is a significant and poignant fact about him. This is a fact about each and every follower of Jesus, that sets us apart. We have been found and called by Jesus. Whether we spent years feeling lost and out-of-place, or we were content with our lives and unaware of any danger; Jesus found us where we were and called us to follow Him.

When Philip had been found by Jesus, he found Nathanael. There is repetition of the word *'found'* in this passage, that reflects the pattern of Christianity – this is how the gospel has spread throughout the world. Those whom Jesus finds, find others, that they may be found also - it is the most logical chain reaction.

Philip starts really well – building up this introduction of Jesus. The one that Moses and the prophets spoke of – the Messiah – is here. This is what the faithful Jews, in this moment in history, are all longing to see. Philip then goes on, continuing the introduction with what would be a huge anti-climax for Nathanael: *'Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph'*. While this was Jesus' popular title, it was not accurate. The more accurate title: *'Jesus of Bethlehem, son of God / David'*, would have had far more impact. Philip just shared what he knew. That is all God expects - and our imperfections do not stop God saving souls.

Nathanael – the Informed Sceptic (verse 46)

Nathanael knew what to expect – and Nazareth certainly wasn't somewhere the Messiah would come from. His preconceived notion of the Messiah did not correlate with this introduction from Philip. Like many today, who have preconceived views of Christianity and the Church – Nathanael did not believe there was anything in it. Philip's response is just: *'come and see'*. Philip doesn't have all the answers but he is convinced all Nathanael needs to do it *'see Jesus'* in order to believe.

Like Lucy, in *'The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe'* - having seen Narnia, believed the rest of her siblings should see it too - if you and I have come to know Jesus, there's hope for everyone. Your friend may think all you are seeing is the hard, wooden back of a wardrobe, but at any moment they too might enter the new world of *'heaven'* - as we find Nathanael does. We know what we have seen to be true; to have been found by Jesus. It can be discouraging and you can at times be made to feel like you are delusional and deceived. Praise God for His Holy Spirit - our seal and guarantee (See *Ephesians 1:13-14*).

Jesus – the Answer God Gives (verses 47-51)

Nathanael is clearly intrigued enough by his friends testimony to make a journey to see Jesus. At ChristCentral, we often meet people who are visiting for similar reasons – and most invitations to church are typically accepted with the caveat: *'...but I'm not religious – you won't convert me'*. Fortunately, Christianity is not about making more people religious. No-one who comes to see Jesus leaves thinking they need to be *'religious'*. Instead, life-changing power is received.

Jesus knew the sceptic heart of Nathanael. He spoke to him words like arrows that hit the target of his scepticism. So much so that Nathanael instantly felt the need to ask: *"How do you know me?"*. Jesus then goes even further: *'...when you were under the fig tree, I saw you'*. We don't know anything about the fig tree, but clearly Jesus knew – and Nathanael knew. Jesus' words land in Nathanael's heart like 10 tonne weight. God sees you - He notices you. This revelation leads Nathanael to see Jesus, not as *'Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph'*, but as *'the Son of God, the King of Israel'*. When such a revelation comes sceptics of God become Sons of God.