



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA  
Richard Cimino  
November 22, 2009

# The Gospel of John

## Come and See pt.2

John 1:40-51

**Related Topics:** John the Baptist; John the Apostle; Andrew; Peter; Philip; Nathanael; The Heart of Evangelism; Unique and Personal dealings of Jesus with men; Jesus Seeing Man As No Man Can See; Confidence in Jesus

## REVIEW

Last week we looked at that moment in the life of Christ when the very first men decided that they wanted to follow Christ. In our study we saw:

- 1.) The heart of John the Baptist pointing men to Jesus.
  - He was PERSISTENT.
  - He POINTED men in the direction of his own heart.
  - He Proclaimed THE MISSION of Christ and THE PERSON of Christ.
  - He POINTED everyone AWAY from himself to Jesus.
  
- 2.) The heart of Jesus dealing with the first followers.

Jesus is the INITIATOR. He truly is the AUTHOR of our faith. He AUTHORED the faith of these first followers by promising to send John the Baptizer, and sending John the Baptizer to prepare their hearts to meet Jesus, and pointing Jesus out to them.

Once they were prepared to meet Jesus and pointed to Jesus, He turned to meet them.

He asked a very important question, “*What are you looking for?*”

*What do you want out of life?* This is awesome, the WHAT that man is looking for is only going to be found in a WHO, in the PERSON of Jesus!

*I just want to find my way in life. Jesus said, “I am the way.”*

*I just want to find truth. Jesus said, “I am the truth.”*

*I just want to get a life (as defined by Madison Avenue advertising agencies / Hollywood etc.). Jesus said, “I am the Life.”*

*I’m just trying to find peace. Eph. 2:14 <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace*

In response to their question He replied, **“Come and see.”** Jesus is saying, “You’ve **heard John** speak of Me. Come and **hear ME** speak to you. You’ve seen him identify Me. **NOW** come **let ME show you** who I am. Now come and see for yourself who I am.”

**COME AND SEE** - What a great description of the Christian life! Walking with Jesus and discovering what ONLY Jesus can teach and reveal about Himself. At the end of John’s life he would write of how he had watched and stared at and even touched the Word that became flesh!

3.) We saw the heart of the true follower of Jesus.

They called Jesus **“Rabbi”**, “You are my great One.”

They asked the question, **“Where are you abiding?”**

They didn’t want a passing comment from Jesus. They wanted to go where He was going, do what He was doing, and live where He was living.

The day that they spent with Jesus changed ETERNITY for them.

**This morning we are going to see what those first two followers of Jesus did after meeting Jesus.**

**<sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup>He brought him to Jesus. Jesus**

**looked at him and said, “So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).**

**ANDREW** - We do not possess a great deal of information about Andrew, but the little that we know about Andrew paints a picture worthy of our attention.

We know that He was not much of a leader. He preached no sermons deemed worth recording. He wrote no Epistles. He performed no recorded miracles. He appears to have had none of the boldness of his brother Peter and never appears in the foreground. But he did have several amazing trademarks that we will discover together this morning.

## **I. Andrew was First To Be Second**

Andrew's had the amazing distinction of being one of the first two men to follow Jesus. **HOWEVER**, despite the distinction of being “first-called,” Andrew never achieved prominence among the disciples.

Though Andrew was **FIRST** to follow Jesus, he was glad to be **SECOND** to everyone else around Jesus.

It is clear that he lived under the shadow of his brother, Peter. Time and again he is referred to as the brother of Simon-Peter. Peter was a bigger than life guy. He naturally drew people to himself. Everyone knew “outspoken, out in front” Peter. Andrew faded into the background, especially when the “Big guy” was around. When ever anyone spoke of Andrew they described him as Peter's brother. *“Andrew? Oh, you know who he is, he's Peter's brother. Easy to miss.”*

A lesser man would have stumbled at this. Having lived with Peter all his life, he knew there would only be one seat for him once he brought Peter to Christ - **THE BACK-SEAT!** But Andrew was content to simply bring his brother Simon to Jesus, and let Peter be the major player!

On top of that, We never find him in the company of Peter, James and John when Jesus invited those men to be with Him at three epic moments (the raising from the dead of the daughter of Jairus, the Mount of Transfiguration, in the hour of His agony in the Garden of Gethsemene.)

It would have been so easy for Andrew to resent this. After all, wasn't he the other of the first two followers of Jesus with John? And Jesus invited

John's brother, James. BESIDES THAT, who was it that led Peter to Jesus? And who was Peter's brother? ANDREW!

Who could find fault with Andrew feeling like, "*So what's up with that?*"

With the advantage of hindsight we can see that Andrew really didn't fit with these guys, they weren't the "privileged inner circle," they were the "Special Ed. Guys."

Regardless, Andrew was content to stand back and let his brother have the limelight, content to play a humble part in the company of the Twelve. All that mattered was to be with Jesus and to serve him as well as he could. **I want to be a lot more like this man Andrew!!!**

**Not only was Andrew FIRST to be SECOND**

## **II. He was the FIRST to bring others to Jesus.**

Andrew was an average man with a GREAT HEART who loved to introduce others to Jesus.

***41*He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ).**

The very first thing we find Andrew doing is *meeting Jesus personally*. As soon as Jesus appeared, Andrew left everything behind to follow Him. We don't know what Andrew said to Jesus or what Jesus said to Andrew, but the result of Andrew personally meeting Jesus was that his heart was set on fire. Andrew now knew and loved Jesus Christ!

After meeting Jesus, the spontaneous reflex of Andrew's was that *everyone must know him*.

Andrew had *tasted and seen* that Jesus is good, and now he couldn't rest until those he loved had *tasted and seen* the goodness and grace of God too.

When Pilgrim in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* met Christ at the foot of the cross, his joy was so great he wanted to shout it to the trees and stars and brooks and birds - to breathe it to everything and everyone.

**QUOTE: J.C. Ryle**

*True grace hates monopolies, and loves not to eat its morsels alone.*

**WHAT IS the necessary motivation to share Jesus?**

**WHAT IS the necessary qualification to share Jesus?**

Meeting Jesus gave Andrew the primary motivation and qualification for sharing Him. If you know Jesus, like average Andrew, you have the essential heart qualification to share Him, even if you don't have all the answers. (In fact you'll lead more people to Jesus than most that have the answers)

**HUGE APPLICATION - THE KEY** to ongoing effectiveness in leading others to Jesus is keeping your love for Jesus and your knowledge of Jesus fresh.

**<sup>42</sup>He brought him to Jesus.**

Andrew was convinced that if Peter could just get around Jesus, his heart would be drawn to Jesus too! Andrew had complete confidence in Jesus and the ability of Jesus to win the heart of Peter and anyone else! We will see this later on in **John 6**.

Jesus is going to tell His men to feed a crowd of 5,000. One of them, Philip, was the calculating pessimist. He sat and figured out how much it would cost to feed the crowd and concluded, on the basis of his accurate calculation, that it was an impossibility. Philip was confirmed in his pessimism. While Philip was confirming his pessimism Andrew discovered that there was in the massive crowd a little boy who had five barley loaves and two fish. Andrew knew that the day would be saved if he could just get that boy to Jesus. Andrew knew that Jesus can use anything that is given to Him. The result was the all-time picnic of the ages.

Andrew was the great CONNECTOR! He loved connecting people to Jesus! There is one last example of this, when Jesus was in Jerusalem the week before He would be slaughtered for the sin of the world.

*John 12:20-22* Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

The Greeks who wanted to see Jesus were, of course, Gentiles and accursed in traditional Jewish eyes. Philip (our calculating pessimist) was unsure what to do with their request. *So he went to Andrew* and Andrew, without hesitation went straight to Jesus. Andrew understood that Jesus is the answer for *everyone!!*

There is so much encouragement in Andrew for me, because Andrew was an average guy:

- He didn't have an education like *Dr. Luke*
- He didn't possess a great intellect like the Apostle Paul
- He had nothing of the force of personality and preaching gifts of his celebrated brother

But in his own way he helped shape the Christian world. In modern history the Billy Graham Evangelical Association recognized *Andrew* as the key to effectively reaching the world. TAT one time they encourage believers to bring others to its Crusades through what they called "*Operation Andrew.*"

I am a firm believer that one-on-one evangelism is the most effective witness in the world. The "American Institute of Church Growth" did a survey and study:

- 1 to 2 % of church attendees are people with special needs
- 2 to 3 % are walk-ins
- 5 to 6 % are influenced to come by a particular preacher
- 2 to 3 % come because they like the church program
- 5 % come through evangelistic crusades / TV programs
- BUT — 75 to 90 % come through the influence of friends or relatives

**Andrew had the right idea** — <sup>41</sup>*He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah"* <sup>42</sup>*He brought him to Jesus.*

**Jesus looked at him and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).**

**There is a whole Bible study in this,** for time sake I just want us to make one observation and application. Jesus looked at Peter as no other man ever did, or ever could. Jesus looked at Peter and saw in him much more than a Galilean fisherman. When Jesus looked at Simon bar Jonah He saw a man who would become a ROCK, one of the pillars of the Church.

**HUGE APPLICATION:** Jesus sees us not only as we are, but as we can be. He looks at YOU and says *"Give your life to me, and I will make YOU what you could never be on your own, but what I've intended you to be from the very beginning."*

**"You are. . . you shall be,"** what a great encouragement to all who trust Christ. Truly, He gives us the "power to become".

**<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."**

So, the next follower of Jesus was a guy named Philip.

**HUGE OBSERVATION:** The way Philip came to Jesus didn't look anything like the way Andrew and John came to Jesus. Andrew and John follow Jesus as a result of the persistence of John the Baptist in proclaiming Jesus and pointing them to Jesus. Philip's coming to Jesus didn't look like Simon Peter, who was brought to Jesus by his brother. **By contrast,** Philip was called directly by Jesus. There was no human agency involved in his calling.

Despite the fact that Philip's conversion didn't look anything like John or Andrews or Peter's, Philip would share the next three years with them at the side of Jesus.

**QUOTE: J.C. Ryle**

*The fact before us is a deeply important one. It throws light on the history of all God's people in every age, and of every tongue. There are diversities of operations in the saving of souls. All true Christians are led by one Spirit, washed in one blood, serve one Lord, lean on one Savior, believe one truth, and walk by one general rule. But all are not converted in one and the same manner. All do not pass through the same experience. In conversion, the Holy Spirit acts as a sovereign. He calls every one severally as He will...*

**TWO BIG APPLICATIONS —**

- 1.)** We need to be careful that we never make the conversion experience of other believers the measure of our own. I know that there are a lot of Christians that feel like they have no testimony because it isn't like that of a saved heroin addict.
- 2.)** We must also be careful that we never judge the legitimacy of another person's conversion because he has not been led by to Jesus the same way we were, or by the same man, or by the same message.

**<sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael**

**NOTE THE PATTERN HERE**, Philip meets Jesus and he goes out and tells Nathanael!

Could **THE RETICENCE** of men and women in sharing Jesus, **THE RELUCTANCE** of men and women to talk about Jesus, be owing to the fact that in modern church culture we just might be introducing men and women to church/a subculture, but they are not by and large meeting Jesus?

**<sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”**

**HUGE OBSERVATION:** When Philip described Christ to Nathanael, he says, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write."

**QUOTE: J.C. Ryle**

*Jesus is the sum and substance of the Old Testament. To Him the earliest promises pointed in the days of Adam, and Enoch, and Noah, and Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. To Him every sacrifice pointed in the ceremonial worship appointed at Mount Sinai. Of Him every high priest was a type, and every part of the tabernacle was a shadow, and every judge and deliverer of Israel was a figure. He was the prophet like unto Moses, whom the Lord God promised to send, and the King of the house of David, who came to be David's Lord as well as son. He was the Son of the virgin, and the Lamb, foretold by Isaiah--the righteous Branch mentioned by Jeremiah--the true Shepherd, foreseen by Ezekiel--the Messenger of the Covenant, promised by Malachi--and the Messiah, who, according to Daniel, was to be cut off, though not for Himself. The further we read in the volume of the Old Testament, the clearer we find the testimony about Christ.*

THAT is why we have spent 6 years studying through Genesis 1:1 – 1 Kings 6

**<sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him,**

By the way, Nathanael is not found in any of the lists of the 12 apostles. It's believed that he found in the lists under his patronym (the name of his father) "Bartholomew." "Bar" is the Aramaic for son: "the son of Tolmai", in Hebrew, His full name is Nathanael Bartholomew.)

**<sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"**

**DON'T MISS THIS** - Philip bases his appeal to Nathanael on the Scriptures: "this is the one of whom Moses and all the prophets spoke, the Messiah." Then he identifies him in a local context, "Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael can't buy that at all! Nazareth was a dusty little village with a bad reputation.

**Nathanael is blowing Philip off! NOTE the response of Philip!**

**Philip said to him, "Come and see."**

THAT should sound familiar to us. These are the same words Jesus used in speaking to John and Andrew. Philip has discovered what Jesus had shown to John and Andrew.

**THIS IS BIG** - If Philip had gotten down on Nathanael's level and hurled an insult back, he might have driven him off. If he argued with him, he might have failed to convince him, or might even have confirmed Nathanael in his doubts. Instead, Philip is completely confident that Jesus can win Nathanael! Nathanael owed his early acquaintance with Christ to that direct and simple invitation, "***Come and see.***"

**QUOTE:**

*The man who does most good to souls, is often the simple believer who says to his friends, "I have found a Savior; come and see Him."*

<sup>47</sup>Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”  
<sup>48</sup>Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” <sup>49</sup>Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”  
<sup>50</sup>Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

This is a reference to the dream that Jacob, one of the patriarchs of Israel, had centuries earlier. Jacob had left his home, he was on the run from his older brother Esau. On one particular night in a place that would come to be called Bethel, Jacob, lonely and frightened, put his head on a stone for a pillow, fell asleep, and had a dream. In the dream Jacob saw a ladder reaching up to heaven, and on it saw the angels of God ascending and descending.

Jesus said to Nathanael, *"You are going to understand that dream when you learn of me. You will learn that I am the way to God for man, and the way for God to reach man. I am the link, the mediator, who spans the gulf between God and man."*

**QUOTE: Roby Duke**

*There is no stairway to heaven, only a bridge Divine*

**CLOSING**

At this point they didn't immediately "forsake all and follow Him," that was to come later. But they had trusted Him and experienced His power. In the three years that lay ahead, they would grow in their faith, learn more about Jesus, and be His means of telling the world about Him.

As we close this morning, there are a few things I want us to remember:

**FIRST** - True evangelism begins with personal relationship with Jesus. It is not enough to hear Him preached from the pulpit, and to read of Him as described in books. We must actually follow Him, pour out our hearts before Him, and have personal fellowship with Him. Then we will be

constrained, as Paul put it, to speak of Him to others. The man who only knows Christ theoretically or intellectually will never do much for the cause of Christ.

**SECOND** - These were ordinary men. There is nothing unique about them. They were not special men; they were not unusually intelligent men. They were just like us, ordinary persons. We need to understand that the secret to being used by Jesus does not depend upon the talents of man. It depends totally on the Lord who knows men and women and who makes them into what He wants them to be.

**THIRD** - Jesus never handled any two alike. Jesus spoke differently to each of them. He understood them. He met them where they were but He NEVER left them where they were. He did not try to make them all fit a pattern or a mold. He treated them all differently, for he understood who they were.

**FOURTH** - Jesus does not call us to visit a church or merely regularly attend a particular church to get a Bible study and leave. As Jesus called these men, He also calls us. Both men and women are called to FOLLOW Jesus, PERSONALLY KNOW Jesus, become DISCIPLES of Jesus. Following him means that you accept where he takes you and what he gives you. You trust him, you obey him, you put yourself in his hands. You participate in the Great Commission of "*making disciples of all men.*" His promise is that, knowing us thoroughly; he will act in love for our best interests, for our good AND for HIS GLORY!

That is what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.