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John 1:35-42 – *The Life of Peter: Come and See*

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John 1:35-42

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

³⁹ “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

The Word of the Lord. (**Thanks be to God**)

A disciple is someone who is in a process of growing...

They are growing in their love for God...

And they are growing in their love for others.

It is a continual, never ending process of growing.

A disciple is not just someone who is completely sold out for Christ...

It is also someone just beginning a relationship with Jesus.

And in-between there is a range of places you can be in the growth process.

But it is a process of growing.

Growing in love for God and love for others.

The Apostle Peter, the disciple who fully committed his life to Christ—

Who was martyred for his confession of Christ as Lord—

Did not begin his journey as a fully committed disciple.

Peter—

Just like every disciple that has ever walked this earth—

Was in a continual process of growth...

He started at the beginning and spent his life maturing...

Growing in his love for God and others.

That's what we're going to be talking about as we look at Peter and the life of some of the disciples.

And this morning is the beginning...

The beginning of the journey.

What we see in the beginning is that...

The first disciples don't know Jesus.

This is where it starts.

We're told of 2 people who were following John the Baptist:

Andrew and this other unnamed person. (some people think it is John the Beloved!)

Andrew and the unnamed disciple have no clue who Jesus is.

Jesus passes right in front of them and it doesn't register.

John the Baptist must point it out to them:

“Look, the Lamb of God!”

Now, if anyone knows Jesus at this point, it is John the Baptist.

After all, John is specifically sent to prepare the way for the Lord.

But, holy smokes, even John—

The one sent by God to prepare the way—

Wasn't always clear on Jesus.

A couple verses earlier John says:

“I myself did not know him.”

“I wouldn't have known him...”

“I wouldn't have recognized Jesus—”

“Had I not seen the Spirit come down on him.” (John 1:31-33)

It's kind of humorous, the way the Gospel of John begins:

The first 34 verses exalt Jesus as the Word:

The one who comes from God; (1:1)

The one who is God; (1:1)

Everything is made through him; (1:3)

In him is life; (1:4)

He is the light of all humanity; (1:4)

He is God's One and Only; (1:14)

He is the Son of God. (1:34)

And now he strolls right past this group of 3...

Just a normal guy walking over the dusty roads of Israel...

Nearly going unnoticed.

This is where the disciples begin...

They don't know Jesus.

This is where we find *our* beginning too...

We don't start off knowing or recognizing Jesus.

I can look back at my own journey and see this:

I grew up in a godly home;

Probably like these first disciples...

I knew God and followed a religion...

But I couldn't pick Jesus out of a crowd.

For me, it didn't have to do with Jesus...

There was no personal relationship there.

It had to do with God.

God as the big-picture concept...

God as the supreme-being was good enough for me.

Maybe you know what I'm talking about.

Religion and spirituality are important to you—

God as an abstract idea is important to you...

You know that there is something out there—

But when it comes to Jesus you haven't made that connection...

Maybe there are doubts or unanswered questions...

Hurdles and barriers you have yet to work through.

Maybe it's not you, but your family or friends.

They believe that there is a something out there...

But don't know much else beyond that.

Maybe they believe in God...

But don't have a personal relationship with Jesus.

At one time—

Or in one way—

We all start at the beginning...

We all start not knowing Jesus personally.

But remember, this is a process.

And if Christianity is about following Jesus (as the name would imply)...

Then this process is about growing in this relationship.

We all start out not knowing Jesus—

But, thanks be to God—

The invitation is extended.

Andrew and the unnamed disciple are invited to “come and see.”

After being directed to Jesus by John...

The disciples follow Jesus.

What would you say if someone started intentionally walking behind you?

“What do you want?”

“What can I do for you?”

Surely this is what Jesus is doing...

But like so many other times in this Gospel...

There is a deeper meaning.

The literal words that Jesus uses are:

“What are you *seeking*?”

For these 2 would-be followers...

Jesus asks this profound question:

“What are you looking for?”

“What is it that you really want in life?” (DA Carson)

Most often this is where the relationship with Christ begins:

“What is it that you’re really after?”

There is a seeking after...*something*...

What are we looking for...?

(Meaning? Purpose? Life? Peace? Love?)

Maybe we can't identify it in the beginning...

But we're seeking something that we feel deep within us.

Andrew and his friend know about the Messiah...

They know that God is supposed to send someone to rescue them...

They are seeking after something.

So, more than wanting to know where Jesus is staying...

They want to check him out...

To see what he's all about.

John has made some pretty bold statements about Jesus...

Now these men need to find out for themselves just who this man is.

To their question, Jesus extends the invitation...

He doesn't push them away.

He says, "Come and see."

"Come, see where I am staying."

Again, there is a deeper meaning to his words.

"You're looking for *something*..."

"Spend some time with me."

"Get to know me and see what I'm about."

For the disciples, this is an invitation into the beginning of the journey.

It's an invitation into relationship with Jesus.

Andrew and the unnamed disciple may not be grasping the significance of what's going on here...

But as readers, we get it.

This is God's One and Only.

The one talking with them *is* God.

And Jesus the Christ is humbling himself...

Inviting these two to simply come and spend some time with him.

God is extending the same invitation to us.

“Come and see.”

“Come and get to know the God-man Jesus Christ.”

This will look different for us depending on where we’re at:

Maybe you’re new to the church...

And you’re unsure of this whole Jesus thing.

Or maybe you’ve been in the church for years...

But Jesus has never been the center-most piece.

The invitation to you is to enter the struggle...

To check Jesus out and the claims that are made of him...

To engage/wrestle with who Jesus is and what he has done.

John 1 makes it clear that Jesus is not just an ordinary guy.

The claim of Scripture is that he is God.

He had skin and bones—

He ate and drank just like us—

But he was also God...

Creating the universe and existing before time.

Scripture also claims that he came to rescue humanity.

Jesus comes so that we can be called children of God...

He comes to repair the broken relationship between us and God...

And he does that through his death on the cross:

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

These are the primary claims of who Jesus is and what he has done:

He is God.

And he brings us into relationship with God.

These are not easy claims to accept...

But this is what we’re invited to check out.

I encourage those of you in this place to wrestle with it...

Ask questions about it;

Keep seeking.

“Come and see” who Jesus is...

This is where the discipleship journey begins.

For others of us we've been Christians for years...

And we have a relationship with Jesus.

We believe that he is who he says he is...

And we believe he has accomplished what he came to do.

But this world beats us up...

It beats us up and pulls us away from this essential confession.

Especially today, during these challenging times:

Restarting school with COVID restrictions;

Not seeing our friends and family as we're used to;

Losing a sense of community and the church.

These times have challenged us to assess where we're at in the growth process.

How are we doing at growing in love for God and others?

Are we as mature in our faith as we once thought?

Now that some of these things have been stripped away from us...

Where is our foundation...

The place we go that can never be shaken?

Do we need to turn back to the center?

Back to Jesus Christ, the “founder and perfecter” of our faith? (Heb 12:2)

Maybe it would be wise for us to sit with Jesus' question:

“What are you seeking?”

“What are you after in this life?”

Underneath all of the superficial wants and desires...

What is at the heart of your search?

I promise you...

That if you're looking for life, peace, meaning, and purpose...

You will find it in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

This is where it starts...

This is where it starts for all of Jesus' disciples.

But of course, this is just the beginning.

Once we find what we're searching for...

We embrace it.

We attach ourselves to it.

We grab it tightly and never let it go.

And so we grow.

We grow in our love and understanding of God;

We grow in our love and service of other people.

And we share what we've found.

We share the Good News that we've found what we've been looking for.

We share it so that others might know and find it for themselves.

This is what happens with Peter...

As his brother comes with the exciting news that they've found the Christ.

Andrew takes him to Jesus...

And as Peter stands before the Lord...

We know that his life will never be the same.

It's the same for us.

As we come and see...

As we enter into relationship with the Son of God...

We begin the journey...

And our lives are never the same.

Amen.