

SERMON-BASED STUDY: FINDING AND FOLLOWING

John 1:35-51, ESV – ³⁵ The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ 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.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ 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.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ 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.” ⁵¹ 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.”

Notes:

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week we learned that disciples help others find and follow Jesus. Why is an invitation to “come and see” a better method than winning a theological debate?
- 2 We also learned that Jesus looks past our limitations and sees our potential. How does this understanding change the way you live your life?
- 3 Jesus comes to us before we come to Him. If this is the case, why do believers need to point people to Jesus?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Luke 5:27-32, ESV** – ²⁷ After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.” ²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. ³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” ³¹ And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

- 4 Why is it amazing that Jesus would call this tax collector? Is Levi’s response to the call of Jesus the same for everyone?
- 5 How is the grace of God evident by Jesus eating with these people? What kind of an attitude did the religious people of that day have toward sinners?
- 6 Why do people go to a doctor? How does Jesus apply this to the reason people come to Him for salvation? Why do some people not come?

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Acts 8:26-32, ESV – ²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

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Looking at the passage above, what was Philip's approach to sharing the gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch?

8

What role did the Holy Spirit play in this encounter? How has the Holy Spirit prompted you to share the gospel message with others?

9

What lessons can we learn from this story about evangelism?

TAKING IT HOME

Jesus started His ministry with an invitation to “come and see.” Similarly, believers are to point people to Jesus with the same invitation to come and see Him. How are you doing in this area? Do you look at others as “unsavable” sinners or do you look beyond their current state and see the potential in them as a child of God? How do you share the gospel with nonbelievers? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to be the best witnesses for Christ you can be.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Matthew 4:18-22

Mark 10:51

Luke 24:27