

# Jesus and the Disciples- John 1:35-51

## February 22, 2009 - Skip MacMillan

### John and the Synoptic Gospels

John is aware of the Synoptic Gospels.

John the Gospel writer knows there are 12 Disciples (John 6:71), he being one but is only concerned with these five.

John's scenes are the disciples' first and general interactions with Jesus; the Synoptics' are the details.

### John the Baptist is released and releases

John's ministry comes to a close: "similar to Moses, the Baptist 'brought salvation history to a boundary that he himself was not allowed to cross' (Matthew 11:11)" -Kostenberger.

John the Baptist is released from his ministry having fulfilled everything the Father willed. John releases his disciples into the arms of the One he prepared the way for.

Jesus steps out of the shadows and begins to build His disciples. Around 30 years old, Luke 3:23.

### "What do you want?"

#### What do you want?

1. Double entendre: What did they want? Did they know?  
What do you seek? What are you looking for? What is going on in your mind?
2. God and questions, usually not good for the one being questioned. Look at Genesis 3:9.  
How to respond to difficult questions, by Andrew: "Rabbi, where are you staying?" (John 1:38).
3. Rhetorical, Jesus knows why they are following, but do they?  
He presses them to **think**: What are you really after, what are you really looking for?
4. Jesus: "He knew all men," "He knew what was in a man" (John 2:23-25).

Jesus doesn't turn people away, but He does call you to deep introspection, to count the cost and then follow wholeheartedly.

Matthew 8:18-22.

Mark 10:21 - "go and sell everything ... then come and follow me".

Jesus is testing their understanding of what it means to be a follower; will you follow when thing become difficult, when others don't, when you have to struggle and strain?

**Us:** What do you want?

What are you looking for?

What do you really want from Jesus?

Why are you following Jesus?

Your children to be smart, healthy, excel, and be rich?

To live a good life, keep a job, your spouse to be perfect, have some extra money?

What are you looking for in Jesus?

Is God enough or are you thinking God + \_\_\_\_\_?

**Answer:** "One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and seek Him in His temple" (Psalm 27:4).

## **Follow Me**

“they followed Jesus” (v. 37) and “Follow Me” (v. 43).

### **Dietrich Bonhoeffer “The Cost of Discipleship”**

#### **1. Following**

The Disciples **follow** due to the “absolute, direct and unaccountable authority of Jesus. . . . Because Jesus is the Christ, he has the authority to call and to demand obedience to his word. Jesus summons men to follow him not as a teacher or a pattern of the good life, but as the Christ, the Son of God.”

#### **2. Leaving**

Following Jesus means to you must **leave** something. “The disciple simply burns his boats and goes ahead. He is called out, and has to forsake his old life in order that he may ‘exist’ in the strictest sense of the word. The old life is left behind, and completely surrendered. The disciple is dragged out of his relative security into a life of absolute insecurity (that is, in truth, into the absolute security and safety of the fellowship of Jesus).”

Following Jesus is “bondage to Jesus Christ alone . . . Jesus is the only significance. Besides Jesus nothing has any significance. He alone matters.”

#### **3. No Details**

Jesus gives few details of what lies ahead.  
Disciples, like John the Baptist followed without knowing all the details.  
John and James thought they knew, seated on the right and left of Jesus in heaven.

#### **4. You cannot follow Jesus at a distance.**

There is no following Jesus via satellite tracking – Google Earth.  
Following means to literally follow behind the footprints of Jesus.  
Follow His teachings.  
His ways and teachings are to shape your life: knowing, doing and being.

Commitment: to follow Jesus no matter what, wherever it may lead you.  
Trusting: trusting Him.  
Believing: He is who He says He is and His ways are right and true.

Eventually you will lose sight of Jesus.  
You must actually get out there with Jesus and follow Him.

### **General Sequence of Following Jesus:**

1<sup>st</sup>: Faith, step of faith, speaking what you do not fully comprehend.  
Messiah, the One Moses and the Prophets wrote about, You are the Son of God, King of Israel; Law: Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Genesis 28; Prophets: Isaiah 9:1-7; 52:13-53:12.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Struggle, followed by ups and downs.  
Difficult times reveal what we really believe.  
When heaven falls silent, when the warm fuzzy’s are no more, everything is still.  
What will you do, follow or leave?  
What are your options, where else can you go?  
Press on toward Him in faith and trust.

3<sup>rd</sup> Devotion, a deep devotion to Christ.

## **Jesus and the Disciples**

**Andrew:** disciple of John the Baptist, along with John; brother of Peter.

"The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' " (John 1:41 ).

He is portrayed as a man who brings people to Jesus (6:8-9 – a boy; 12:22 - Greeks).  
Andrew learned from John the Baptist to point people to Jesus.

**John** the second and unnamed disciple of John the Baptist; typical of John to not mention himself.

### **Simon to Peter**

Renamed by Jesus, just as Abram, Sarai, and Jacob.

Peter's response to Jesus: "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8).

Jesus would reply later: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter (Rock) and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:17-18).

God will make Peter ("I am a sinful man") into the man God wills, a Rock for the church!  
He changes Peter's name to what he will become, what Jesus will make him into.  
So Jesus does with you!

### **Philip**

Jesus specifically calls Philip to "follow Me" (John 1:43).

Philip finds Nathanael and tells him "we have found the One Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote" (John 1:45).

### **Nathanael**

Means "God gives" or "God has given".

Not mentioned in other gospels; why? Thought to be Bartholomew; Bar-Tholomaios = son of Tholomaios; repeated links to Philip (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14).

### **How to handle a skeptic:**

1. Tell them what you have found. Philip goes to get Nathanael.
2. Listen to their argument: "can anything good come from Nazareth?"
3. Don't debate, just point them to Jesus: Philip "come and see" Jesus!

**1. Jesus knows who these men are and what they will become when He shapes them.**  
He knows who you are and he knows what you will become when He shapes you!

### **2. Word of mouth:**

The form of evangelism we see here are people who have a genuine relationship with Jesus telling others. That is what we must do.

**You shall see, verses 50-51.**

### **"I tell you the truth"**

Listen up, pay attention, what I'm about to tell you is very important, you better listen.

## Jacob's Vision: Gen. 28:10-17

Jesus is explicitly alluding to Jacob's vision.

God takes the initiative, in a Theophany, reveals the vision, the stairway, the angels, heaven.

"Stairway" is a unique word in the Bible; it is a unique vision.

An access the angels use, a connector, bridge, etc.

### Ancient Idea:

"The notion of that such "gateways" existed was widespread. One of the titles of the high priest of Thebes in Egypt was "The Opener of the Gates of Heavens," while the city of Babylon was understood by the Semites to have derived its name from *bab-ilim*, a "gate of the god" -Sarna.

**Jacob is given a window into the spiritual realm**, a world otherwise unseen to the human eye.

## Why this connection with Jacob's vision of a ladder?

### 1. Jesus is saying He is the Ladder.

"Jesus is the link between heaven and earth, the realms above and below, between God and humanity" -Keener.

Jesus says, I am the Ladder, stairway, the pathway, the way, I am the access way to heaven, "the gate of heaven", mediator between heaven and earth, Bethel – house of God, a Temple of God (John 2:19-22).

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

I am the great and greatest revelation of God.

Exclusivity - there is only one ladder to heaven, Jesus Christ.

Jesus is saying I am the house of God, Bethel; I am the Temple. (John 2:19-22).

"One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and seek Him in His temple" (Psalm 27:4).

### When did this occur?

Signs and wonders, seeing Moses and Elijah, healing, feeding thousands, creation brought under control, resurrecting the dead, the Cross of death and life, the resurrection and ascension, life overcoming death.

## Summary:

What do you want from Jesus?

Follow Jesus: you must leave; you must follow closely.

Tell others: experience Christ for yourself and then tell others, point them to Him.

You will see greater things still to come.