The Gospel of John

**8—BEING & CALLING DISCIPLES – JOHN 1:35–49**

**John 1:35–49 (ESV)** 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!”

**INTRODUCTION**

Like it or not, people have varying levels of spiritual hunger. Some are not hungry for God at all. Some are only slightly hungry. Others are very hungry for the things of God, and you can see it by the way they live. And then there are those who seem to have such an unquenchable hunger that they would make almost any sacrifice to know the truth about God, and to know Him. Which category are you in?

Virtually all of the people who went out to see John the Baptist were very hungry. Think about it. Who travels many miles out to the Judean wilderness to listen to a socially awkward prophet cry out and tell them what sinners they are, and then in response, wade out into the murky waters of the Jordan river to repent of their sins and be dunked under water as a sign of being cleansed and forgiven. Concerning spiritual hunger, these truly were among the elite in Israel

And then there were those … the people who not only traveled far to hear John, but who stayed out there longer, camping all around the area, to continue listening to and sitting under the ministry of this anointed preacher. I want to show you why we all should be determined to continue graduating until we land in that last category, which is always filled with “disciples,” and how we should help others move toward that level as well.

# **JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 28:19**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations…”

# **SO WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?**

1. Someone who “walks with,” “follows after” or “sits under” someone else to learn what they know and to practice it
2. Proverbs 13:20 says, “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. (ESV)

**ILL– I eat lamb occasionally, but it’s not part of my regular diet. In the same way, I learn from many people, but I’m not called to be discipled by many people. God places us under certain people for reasons beyond our understanding.**

**EX – When I was 18 years of age, my life was changed through the teaching of a man of God who lived in another state. I couldn’t follow him around, but I think I spent every dollar I could spare to purchase many cassette tape series and listen to them again and again. There was something in me that HAD TO KNOW what that man knew so that I could live like that, and teach others … and though not perfectly, that’s what I’ve done.**

**EX – In 2008 I heard Bishop David Oyedepo speak for the first time. He pastors one of the largest churches in Africa. That message impacted me so deeply, and on many levels. I’ve listened to it over 70 times, and have acquired many other teachings from him.**

**EX – Bishop Oyedepo told me personally that he had stayed planted under his mentor his whole ministry life, even when his ministry outgrew his mentor’s ministry.**

**EX – I regularly receive emails and letters from people whose lives have been changed through OSL and teachings I have done. I started with what I learned from others, and the Holy Spirit continued to teach me more, and I continue to teach it as the opportunities arise.**

1. Who has God called you to walk with, follow after or sit under to learn?

**THE LORD WANTS TO TALK TO US TODAY ABOUT BEING DISCIPLES AND CALLING DISCIPLES**

# **BEING A DISCIPLE**

1. John writes about two specific disciples of John the Baptist (Vv35-37).
2. They both heard John’s comments about Jesus, so as Jesus walked away, they started following Jesus (V37).
3. They asked where Jesus was staying, but were not inviting themselves to stay with Him (V38).
4. John identifies one of them clearly, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother (V40).
5. So Andrew, and almost certainly John himself, was following so closely after John the Baptist that they were standing right next to him when he pointed Jesus out.

# **CALLING (or INVITING) DISCIPLES**

1. John pointed to Jesus (Vv35-37).
2. Andrew first found his own brother, Simon, on the same day (V41).
3. Jesus called Simon “Cephas,” (which means Peter).

* Simon in Hebrew is “Simeon” (Ac 15:14).
* Cephas is Aramaic and means “rock.”
* Peter basically means the same, but could mean “stone” or “boulder.”
* Jesus was not telling Peter that he was already a rock-solid leader but, rather, he was showing him what he was called to be from his mother’s womb. He was showing Peter what he could become if he followed Him. And we later saw him:
  + Be the #1, or lead, disciple
  + Be the only one who walked on water with Jesus
  + Be the one who answered Jesus’ question about who He was:
    - “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God
  + Be the one who preached on the day of Pentecost when 3000 were baptized and added to the church
  + Be the most prominent figure in the first 12 chapters of the book of Acts
* We must see people’s potential and call it out in advance.

1. The next day—Day 3 (V43)
2. Jesus decided to go to Galilee, the northern region of Israel (V43).
3. He (Jesus) found Philip, and said to him, “Follow Me.” (V43)
4. Philip found Nathanael (V45).
5. Jesus saw Nathanael … and said something to him (V47).
6. Nathanael said, “How do you know me?” (V48)
7. Jesus said, “Before Philip called you … I saw you.” (V48)
8. Nathanael said, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel.” (V49)

**EX – I have seen so many people bypass opportunities to be discipled, and what it cost them in their lives. And I have also seen many people who were on the wrong path, but when God threw them a lifeline by bringing them an opportunity to be discipled, they jumped on it … and it changed their lives forever.**

## **WE HAVE OPTIONS TODAY TO BECOME AND INVITE DISCIPLES**

* OSL
* The BFAM Strategy
  + FIND Persons of Peace
  + DISCOVER God through His Word
  + PLANT reproducing churches
  + GROW by walking with God
* (Coming Soon) Walks with God