

**John 1:35-48 (NIV)**

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

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

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

<sup>39</sup> “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.

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

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

<sup>44</sup> Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

<sup>46</sup> “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

<sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

<sup>48</sup> “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

**Sermon for January 14, 2024:** [www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online](http://www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online)

**CELEBRATION:** What a precious time it was Sunday morning to observe Eliza Bontrager’s baptism! Celebrate this infant baptism by praying together for **Tyler and Lynnae** as they provide a Christian home and example for Eliza, for **Eliza** to early know and love the Lord, and ask God to empower **us** to do our part as her faith family in loving, teaching and pointing her to God.

**KNOW ... *God and his Word.***

In this passage, Jesus has four different encounters with others. Let's unpack them.

- Jesus's first encounter was with two of John the Baptist's disciples. Discuss what happens in these verses (vv. 35-39). What in these disciples' words or actions stand out to you? Why would Jesus, the Lamb of God, need to ask them what they wanted? Would Jesus' invitation to "Come and you will see" make any difference in their lives? Why or why not?
- In the second encounter, Jesus met Simon Peter, who never spoke a word to Jesus as related here in John's Gospel. Who and what compelled Simon to go and meet Jesus? In what ways did Simon's encounter with Jesus change him?
- Describe the third encounter. What is unique about Jesus's meeting with Philip? How did Philip respond to what Jesus said to him? Why do you think he responded that way?
- The fourth encounter is a result of Philip's confession about Jesus to a friend. How would you characterize Nathaniel's response to Philip? Why do you think Nathaniel consented to following Philip to meet Jesus? Talk about Jesus's words to Nathaniel. What does this conversation reveal about Jesus's identity?
- What stood out to you in this passage or from Pastor Mark's sermon? Discuss any additional insights, thoughts or questions you may have.

**ACT ... *responding to & applying what we know.***

- Think back to when you were first introduced to Jesus. Did you immediately recognize there was something different about Jesus like John's disciples, Simon and Phillip or were you more like Nathaniel — it took an epiphany to open your eyes? Was it easy or hard for you to believe in Jesus? What was the turning point for you in coming to faith? Discuss your introduction to Jesus with your group or someone else this week. Celebrate the ways Jesus pursues a relationship with us.
- Jesus said to those he encountered, "Come and you will see." As Pastor Mark explained, Jesus knew if they would spend any time with him, they would truly know who he was. In essence, "Come and you will see" is Jesus's invitation to not only journey with him but is an invitation to embark on an ever-unfolding life of discovering more and more about him.

As you have followed Jesus, have you had specific moments of epiphany in your journey with him that have revealed more about his character, power, presence ... or changed what you previously thought about Jesus? Give an example. How did that epiphany shape your understanding of who Jesus is going forward?

**BE ... *living in light of what we've heard, becoming more like Christ.***

So, what did you discover last week — are you an imitator or admirer of Jesus? Are you on a journey of discovering more and more about Jesus or are you satisfied with admiring him from afar, listening to what others tell you about him?

ASK Jesus to reveal himself to you this week. As you imitate his example in reading Scripture, praying and having conversations with others this week, LOOK and LISTEN for the Spirit to deepen your understanding about Jesus or awaken you to his presence with you. PRAISE GOD for hearing you and as he answers this prayer.

KEEP becoming more like Jesus!

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Angela*

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