



Come and See!

Genesis 28:10-22 John 1:43-51

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The Word of God is powerful, active, and effective. In the New Testament book of Hebrews, the Word of God is described as a *Mighty Sword* that cuts through all sin, deception, and lies that hide in our heart; in the NT book of Romans, the Word of God is the “*dynamite*” of God that breaks down sin and brings salvation to people.

Today in our Gospel lesson from John, we see Jesus’ powerful Word active and effective in bringing two men to faith.

The first is Philip.

Jesus finds Philip and simply says to him, “*Follow Me!*” Jesus’ powerful word creates what it calls for: Philip is given faith and he *follows Jesus!*

Notice that **Jesus found Philip**: that’s grace, mercy and 100% God’s work in salvation. **Jesus found you as well.** For most of us, He intersected our lives for the first time at the Baptismal font. In Holy Baptism, the Lord washed your sins away and brought you into His family. For others of you, Jesus found you at some point in your life through His Word at work in your heart. Some one or some people shared Christ with you and you understood the Gospel and believed it. Jesus’ powerful, active and effective Word created faith within you and gave you eternal salvation. Either way, **Jesus finds us**: He found you and He saved you.

There is a danger that you need to be very careful about. Many in the Christian church today get this mixed up and they think that they “found Jesus” or that they “made their decision for Jesus” or they “chose Jesus.” They have turned salvation upside down and into a work of man. The truth is that **Jesus finds us**; He **chose** you and He **calls** you to *follow Him!*

We are saved by God's grace as He works through His powerful, active and effective Word! TAKE A LOOK AT JOHN 15:16

To follow Jesus means that you trust in Him for salvation; that you believe He forgives your sins and that He gives you eternal life. Following Jesus means that you take His Word seriously, that you study and learn it, and that you live your life according to it.

For Philip, following Jesus included **sharing His faith** with those that he loved. Philip finds his friend Nathaniel and tells him what happened.

Notice what is happening here: Jesus finds Philip, and Philip finds Nathaniel. That is how it works.

No one wakes up in the morning and out of the blue says, “I want to know Jesus.” It doesn’t happen like that. Rather, the Lord works through people to bring the Good News of Jesus to other people. Someone brought you to Holy Baptism. Someone taught you about Jesus’ and His love. Someone explained Jesus’ death and resurrection to you. God works through people to bring the Gospel to others. ***God works through you to bring the Gospel to those in your life.***

Today, see yourself as Philip. Like Philip, God's powerful, active and effective Word worked in your life, created faith in Jesus, and called you to *follow Him*. Like Philip, you have loved ones who need to hear about Jesus. The love of Christ changes you; your faith is visible in what you say and do. You become a witness to others, telling them the Good News about Jesus. Who are the “Nathaniel’s” in your life who need to hear about Jesus?

As Philip was sharing his story about Jesus with Nathaniel, Nathaniel interjects ***“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”***

Nathaniel is having a hard time believing the story about Jesus. People in your life might have a hard time at first also; they may raise objections; they may ask questions you can’t answer. They may even be angry or disillusioned about Christ and His Church. They almost certainly have faulty information about Christ. They may even laugh at you and ridicule the Gospel. But we learn from Philip how to handle those objections:

Philip said to him,
"Come and see."

Come and See . . . That is an invitation. He didn't argue with Nathaniel, he just invited. You can do the same thing. Invite someone to learn more about Jesus. Invite them to church. Bring them to a bible study. Introduce them to your Christian friends. Give them a Bible, or Small Catechism or a hard copy of the sermon. You do not have to have all the answers to share your faith! Just tell people what you know about Jesus, and His death and resurrection that brings the forgiveness of sins. Tell people what the Lord has done for you. Tell them how the Lord intervened in your life and brought you to faith. Tell them about your church; and all the activities that happen here -- and that they are welcome to participate. Ask them to come to worship with you, so that they will be in a Godly environment hearing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. Introduce them to me or our Staff or our Elders. Like Philip, invite them to "**come and see**" for themselves. **One powerful tool that you have is simply the invitation to learn more about Christ.**

To help you with that, today we are doing something special. We have a 1,000 copies of the Gospel of John to pass out. We want to give each of you at least 2 copies of this book to pass out to unbelievers in your life. Use this as an opportunity to share your faith -- and give the other person a chance to "**come and see**" for themselves by reading God's Holy Word. Let them see for themselves that Jesus is the Savior of the world from the Gospel of John. Pray that the Lord will work through His powerful, active and effective Word to create faith so the person can "follow Jesus" for the rest of their life.

Just as someone has told you about Jesus and taught the faith to you; so too you can help others learn about Jesus and His love for them. Don't be afraid or ashamed to invite your friends and neighbors, your family members – anyone who needs Jesus – invite them to "**come and see.**" **One powerful tool that you have is simply the invitation to learn more about Christ.**

Finally, one other thing.

Today might be a good day for you to examine yourself and look at your **attitude** about sharing your faith.

Are you **eager and excited** to do it, like Philip finding Nathaniel? Or do you immediately **dismiss the idea** of sharing your faith? Are you **afraid**? Are you **embarrassed**? Maybe you are even **angry** that we are asking you to give the Gospel of John away to people in your life? **How does the idea of sharing your faith make you feel?** Your attitude towards sharing your faith is a good self-reflection tool. Use this as a time to examine your faith. Use this time to evaluate your attitude towards those living without Christ and dying in their sins.

Outreach, sharing our faith, evangelism, is a part of the Christian faith.

We see it in Phillip as he immediately told Nathaniel about Christ.

Talking about Jesus is what Christians do!

If you don't talk about Jesus and His love, *then who will?*

If you don't talk about Jesus and His love, *then why not?*

There is an old hymn titled "Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling" that cuts through the excuses and gets to the urgency and importance of sharing our faith:

Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly;
Let His work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when He calls you,
"Here am I. Send me, send me!"

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling By: Daniel March Lutheran Worship #318.4

Today you are being called to share your faith with others! God's powerful, active and effective Word has worked in your life to bring you the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. May that same Gospel, that Good

News about Jesus, drive you and motivate you to share your faith with others! Amen!

730 prayer FIRST PARAGRAPH

Holy Spirit, Your Word is powerful, active, and effective. Thank you for bringing the Gospel to us and creating faith in Jesus our Savior. Please work through us as we share our faith with others to bring the Gospel to those in our lives who are lost and dying in sin. Call them, as you have called us, to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.