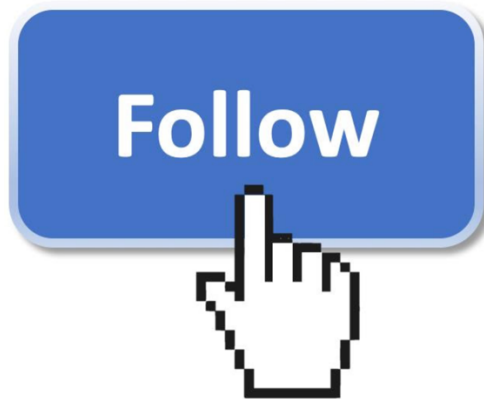


050320 Growth Group Study

The First Followers

John 1:35-51



Background: Last week we heard the witness of John the Baptist. This week, Jesus takes center stage as people begin following him. Jesus' first words of the Gospel are to these followers, "What are you seeking?" It's an inviting and searching question. If he were to ask you that today, how would you answer it? The first followers then respond with a question, "Where are you abiding Jesus?" It's a way of saying, "If we come to you Jesus, what will we find?" And, in this text, Jesus makes two great promises to these first followers. Come and see what they are this Sunday.

Sermon Text (ESV):

John 1:35-51

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."

Discussion Questions:

- Online, to "follow" someone may be to watch their videos/read their blogs/click a button, etc. ... But in the real world, it means to go behind someone or do the same as them. What is an example of where you followed someone, and they took you in a different direction, or towards different things, than you would have chosen yourself (whether good or bad)?
- What do you think about Shawn's comment that it is never "will I follow?", but rather, "who (or what) am I following?"
- Jesus is masterful at asking lots of questions, and He then invites responses from people & genuinely listens to them. His first question is, "What are you seeking?" Let's answer that question for ourselves 2,000 years later...
- What is your reaction to Shawn's assertion that what we seek on a daily basis will determine the direction of our lives? What are you seeking on a daily basis that positively contributes... negatively contributes?
- Many titles for Jesus are used in these verses: Rabbi (teacher), Messiah (the Christ), the Old Testament witness, (adoptive) Son of Joseph, Son of God, King of Israel, Son of Man... Did any of these titles particularly jump out at you? Which one(s)? Why?
- One scholar has said that Son of Man was the most pretentious name you could give yourself in the ancient near East... But if Jesus is who He says He is, His word should

have final say in His follower's lives: what would it look like for you to submit every area of your life to His authority, and no one else?

- Shawn closed his sermon by telling us what followers would find in Jesus: transformation and revelation. How has/is the Lord transforming you? And in what ways has He revealed himself to you?