

“Come and See”

Epiphany 2

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2)

January 17, 2021

May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. (2 Thess 3:5)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Have you had it happen to you...when your child or grandchild comes running to you, ever excited b/c they want to show you something – Mom/Dad, Grandma/Grandpa – you have to see this. Maybe they learned how to ride a bike, dribble a basketball, or they've made it to a new level on their video game. Come and see.

In our gospel lesson, we hear how the disciples were first called to “Come and See” Jesus – who he was and what he came to do. They heard about this Jesus of Nazareth. They wanted to see him. They wanted to fully think and understand about who Jesus is and what he came to do. And we too want to come and see Jesus. Now when you think about this gospel lesson as we have it, it really is a nice way for us to kick start a new season of the church year. The week after the baptism of our Lord Jesus This Sunday and in the Sundays that follow all the way up through Easter and just before Pentecost. We see Jesus at work throughout his life and all of the gospels and one of the most interesting aspects of Jesus for who he is and came to do is that this is a time when it's a start for Jesus, right?

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

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ 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.”

⁴⁶ “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

Jesus is just starting his ministry and he's calling his disciples to come and follow him. We're just a few days after Jesus had gone into the Jordan River and been baptized by John the Baptist if you read through the earlier parts of John some of which we've had in the last couple of weeks. You see John describe Jesus. And as we hear

even in our Gospel lesson today, it's not just some secondhand account. It's one we're almost like he was in a court of law and had to give eyewitness testimony to something that took place. John wants to tell us about Jesus. He says come and see. Now think about these words that the disciples were saying one to another this aspect of come and see. We understand that first verb, right? It's a command. It's an aspect of you physically have to move from one place to another right to get there. But what do we mean by that word see? Now in the Greek language, there's a whole aspect of perception. And how you view something. I want you to add another thought or later to that verb see not just that you see it with your own eyes, but you that you think and understand it. That's really the way that it was for the disciples here at the beginning of our lesson when they were told come and see and what were they told to come and see listen again as I share that with you.

Fully believe in the gospel. It's hard and difficult for us to understand many of us here today. Maybe we're newer to the faith or we've been in the faith and have been here many years.

Every time we read the Bible and open up the pages of scripture we might learn something new. And what God wants to do is he wants to tell us all about this Jesus of Nazareth. This one who was the promised savior the one who John the Baptist had proclaimed look the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come and see him.

The second aspect comes in the verses then that follow not only do we want to come and see him and think about them we want to and as it goes on to say here in our lesson follow him.

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."

⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

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

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

When you look at this portion of scripture and you hear that encouragement to come and see Jesus not only is it that aspect of thinking and understanding him like the disciples did. The point that

Jesus was getting to was to follow him. To follow him throughout his ministry to follow them in what he was doing to follow him in telling the good news of the kingdom of God to all people. And that's what the disciples would do for years.

How can I follow you if I don't know much about you? How can I follow you if I have my doubts in my skepticism? Do you see one by one how that's the case? I'm not yet convinced Jesus because nothing good comes from Nazareth. I'm not yet convinced Jesus because How do you know who I am? Said Nathaniel. Jesus said I know you I saw you under the fig tree. Follow me. And aspect of our faith and the practice of our faith is not only believing in Jesus, but then following and doing what he says. That tells us and gives us all those commands and scriptures to follow him. The one who's the Lamb of God the one who's the promised Messiah and the savior of the world the one who came to take away the sins of the world. Will you follow him? Come and see. Come and see who this Jesus is. The one who drives away every doubt and fear and worry from your heart.

Come and see the one who can speak life to you and who will speak life to you. When you're buried in the grave. Come and see this one who does miracles. Who did Miracles and who continues to do miracles? In the lives of those in scripture and both the Old Testament and New Testament and in does it in the lives of Believers here yet today? Follow this one who created that saving faith in your heart at baptism.

The one who gave you the forgiveness of sins new life and salvation. And the one who continues to speak life into your life right now. Come and see.

But there's a third aspect that we want to think about here today. And that comes at the end here where Jesus says

⁵¹ He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

What do we think of when we hear those words? We have the hope that Jesus has called us to when we come and see him. We know that there's more to this life than the life that we live right now. We know that Jesus has waiting for us in heaven a mansion a paradise many rooms one that has our name on it.

Come and see What's your story? Have you come to see Jesus for who he is when you've opened up your Bibles? You've come to church on a Thursday or Sunday night.

How have you come to see him? As your savior and the lord of the universe as the one who loves you dearly the one who loves you so much that he give up his life to take away your every sin. If that's how you've come to see him and if that's how you've come to known him and if that's how you continue to follow him in your life.

This is my challenge to you in the new year – Imagine all of your friends and relatives and Neighbors Who don't know that yet? And the ones who have yet to hear the good news that all of the guilt and shame of their sins of the past have been forgiven by Jesus. To hear that there is a thing called life after death. It's a place called heaven and it's a place that Jesus has reserved for those who believe in him.

Isn't it interesting how one disciple went and told another and said come and see come and see this Jesus? You know what Jesus does for you, you know what Jesus has done for you, you know what Jesus continues to do for you the same way and it's really interesting the way that Jesus worded it when he told the disciples to come and see it's an ongoing action, and that's what Jesus calls you and I to do to continue to come and see. See him for who he is. I pray that we have that opportunity to do that here throughout this year to see Jesus the one who is the savior of the world. Amen.

Let's pray – Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for inviting me to come and see you. Help me to see you for who you truly are – my Savior from Sin. Give me the ability and the opportunity to invite more and more to come and see you as their Savior too. In your name I pray. Amen.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)