

Being a Winner Following Jesus

John 1:35-42

July 8, 2018

The term “Soul Winner” is not heard very often in today’s Church. Just a few short years ago this term was used quite often as there was an **Evangelistic Thrust** to reach the lost. But for some reason the focus has shifted from attracting people to Jesus to attracting people to the church. **Come and see** what our church has to offer instead of **Come and see** what Jesus has to offer. **We now have Commercialized Consumer Christianity where Christians are seeking out the church which offers them the best deal.** If we have the right Music? The right Programs for our children, young people and adults? Churches have become more concerned about whether our buildings are in tip top repair, the grounds perfectly manicured, rooms painted to appeal to a modern culture. Not that any of this is not important, it is; However our focus should be on reaching people and introducing them to Jesus!

The Great Preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Said and I quote: “Other men may teach socialism, deliver lectures, or collect a band of fiddlers that they may gather a congregation, but I will preach the Gospel.”

Do you know Gateway’s Mission Statement?

“That Everyone we know may know Jesus!”

John 1:35-42 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).

I. **Following Jesus Involves** a **Change of Your Direction** (35-37)

A. **First we see their Current Position without Jesus (35)** The next day again John was **standing** with two of his disciples

B. **John saw the opportunity to Proclaim Jesus (36)** and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, **the Lamb of God!**"

1. **When John the Baptist** Proclaimed Jesus as The Lamb of God **he was Declaring Jesus as The Savior of All Sinners**
2. **John also was Declaring** Jesus as The **Sacrifice of All Sin**

When John called Jesus “*the Lamb of God*” he was giving us a word picture of Jesus as a sacrificial animal.

It may have been two lambs that died to cover the naked bodies of Adam and Eve in Eden, **Genesis 3:21**.

It was a lamb that was offered as the first sacrifice in the Bible, **Genesis 4:4**.

It was a lamb that redeemed the children of Israel from their bondage in Egypt, **Exodus 12**.

It was a lamb that had been promised to Isaac as Abraham led him up to Mount Mariah **Genesis 22:8**

Countless lambs had been slain in Israel as sin offerings down through the centuries, **Leviticus 4**.

C. **Andrew and John** then Perceived Jesus as **Their Savior (37)** The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

II. **Following Jesus Involves** a Challenge of Your Desires (38-39a)

A. **Jesus knew they were** behind Him so He Engaged Them (38a) Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?"

Jesus asks them a probing question not for His own benefit for He is Omniscient, Knowing all things. This question is for the benefit of Andrew and John.

- B. **He is asking them to Examine** Their own **Motives** for wanting to follow Him. **(38a)**
Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, **"What are you seeking?"**

Admit you are a Sinner! Confess your Sin!

- C. **Andrew and John responded** to Jesus as they **Enlisted** an Audience **(38b)** And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), **"where are you staying?"**

They were not asking where he was residing but wanted an extended private interview with Him which indicated their **willingness** to become His Disciples.

- D. **Jesus now Extends** an Invitation **(39)** He said to them, "Come and you will see."

III. **Following Jesus Involves** a Life **Changing Decision** **(39b)** So they came and saw where he was staying, and **they stayed** with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

You Believe in Jesus

Difference between Belief and Saving Belief!

James 2:19 You believe that God is one; you do well. **Even the demons believe**-- and shudder!

What are you to believe about Jesus?

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that **he**

was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

IV. **Following Jesus Involves a Call of Duty**

(40-42) 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).

All of us are Called to be a witness for Jesus

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Every time Andrew appears in the Gospel record, he is bringing someone to Jesus. He went first his brother Simon Peter and brings him to Jesus **v 41-42**

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Jesus still stands at the door and knocks "*Come and see*" Jesus is still inviting people to consider Him. We are living in a world where people are seeking answers. They are looking for direction, fulfillment and hope. If you are among that number and you are looking for more from life, you need to know that His invitation to "*Come and see*" still stands.

Receive Jesus Now!

Every Head Bowed and Every Eye Closed

I'm going to lead you this morning in a prayer to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you want to receive Jesus Christ today quickly raise your hand and drop it down.

Sinners Prayer

"Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and I do not deserve eternal life. But, I believe You died and rose from the grave to make me a new creation and to prepare me to dwell in your presence forever. Jesus, come into my life, take control of my life, forgive my sins and save me. I am now placing my trust in You alone for my salvation and I accept your free gift of eternal life." Thank you for saving me this day. Amen