

“Come and See”

Have you been invited to try something new recently? How did you respond initially - did you reject or accept the invitation? If you accepted the invitation, was it as you initially expected or was it better/worse?

In our passage, Jesus is just starting his ministry after being baptised by John and has started to gather the core group of twelve disciples who would become known as the apostles. **Read John 1:43-51**

On Sunday Paul looked at 3 aspects of this passage:

1. Philip was intentional about discipleship

When Philip was called by Jesus he intentionally went looking for his friend to share with him something important he had discovered: “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.” vs 45

Philip realised who Jesus was, he longed for Messiah, and wanted to share this news with his friend, so that he could also meet Jesus for himself. It wasn't a chance meeting, but an intentional searching for his friend until he found him - sitting under a fig tree.

*Has God revealed/taught you anything recently that you can share with your home group or friends?
Personal reflection: When last did you pray for someone not yet in the Kingdom? When last did you intentionally tell someone about something God had taught or done for you?*

2. Nathaniel's judgement was impaired by his perception of Jesus

What was Nathaniel's immediate response to Philip's exciting news?

When Philip excitedly told him about Jesus, Nathaniel ignored all the good things and questioned the village where he was told that Jesus came from! His prejudice made him ignore or negate the other things that Philip was telling him. He placed more value in the place where Jesus came from than the person he had never met. Fortunately Philip insisted that he “come and see” for himself.

Do you think that your desire to share Jesus with people is influenced by the responses that you think/fear you will receive?

Personal reflection: Consider if your prejudices or unconscious bias affect the value that you put on people.

3. Nathaniel's life was transformed by Jesus

Jesus doesn't care about Nathaniel's prejudice, but immediately lets him know that he saw him and valued him before Philip had even found him. Nathaniel was probably following Jewish tradition and praying under the fig tree and Jesus recognises this. Jesus sees the value in Nathaniel before Nathaniel sees value in Jesus. Nathaniel was surprised by Jesus' response and his encounter with Jesus invokes a response in him: He now sees Jesus for who He really is and his response is to worship and to follow. Nathaniel responds to the value that Jesus places on him.

Do you feel that you are valuable to Jesus? Consider how this may affect your view of yourself and others.

Discuss the practical implications of this quote from Mother Theresa: “If you judge people, you have no time to love them.”

Personal reflection: Consider if your unconscious or conscious judgements of people reflect the value that Jesus has of them or your own prejudices?

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

“You are worthy of it all, you are worthy of it all.
For from you are all things and to you are all things. You deserve the glory.”

How do we respond to Jesus' work in our life?

Any encounter with Jesus should bring us to worship Him....

Spend some time contemplating these words of the songs we sang on Sunday as a response to God's work in your lives.

Please share with the elders anything that you feel God is saying to you ...