

Intro: Did you see that?!

See something good, experience something great, want to tell everyone

E.g. Baby, new puppy, sporting triumph etc.

That's what is happening in this passage – people are seeing Jesus, realising he is someone special, and telling others about him.

Context:

John the disciple/apostle, writing so that readers “may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” 20:31

Ch. 1:1-18 – John's description of Jesus as the Word

Ch. 1: 19-34 – John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus – greater one, Lamb of God, will baptise with HS

Ch. 1:35-51 – Jesus steps into the picture.

Structure: Time markers – the next day

1. V35-42 – Jesus with two of JTB's disciples and Peter
2. V43-51 – Jesus calls Phillip and Nathanael

1. V35-42 – Look! The Lamb of God! The Messiah!

V35-36 - The next day JTB is there again with two of his disciples when Jesus again passes by JTB says “Look the Lamb of God!”

JTB wants his disciples to see Jesus for who he really is. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus sheds his blood so that those who trust in him will not face God's wrath, but instead have their sins forgiven and go to be with him forever when they die.

V37 – When the two disciples hear JTB saying this they follow Jesus. JTB job is almost over. JTB's role was to point people to Jesus. His disciples must now follow Jesus b/c Jesus is the one who will save them and give them the HS, not JTB.

V38-40 – Jesus turns around and sees them following him and asks them what they want. They reply by asking where is he staying? Either just b/c they want to spend more time with him, or that they are making a request to become his disciples – “Where are you staying?” becomes “Can I come and live with you and learn from you?”

In those days they didn't have theological colleges where you could go and learn all about God. No, if you wanted to learn about God, you found a teacher, a rabbi, who could teach you and then you went and lived with him. Paul says that he learned at the feet of Gamaliel.

Jesus invites them to come and see, and they spend the day with him.

V41 – first thing Andrew does is find his brother Simon and tell him “we have found the Messiah, that is the Christ.” We will look at the term Messiah in a moment but notice here that the first thing Andrew does is find Simon and tell him about Jesus. It’s that natural thing of seeing something special or in this case meeting someone special and then wanting to tell your friends and family about him. Or even more than that, wanting your friends and family to meet this special person too.

E.g. Prince Harry in Sydney – people waited for hours to get a glimpse of him. Young lady proposed to him. Imagine if you were a huge royal fan and you met Prince Harry and he invited you to spend the day with him. You would be so excited. And at the end of the day you would rush home and grab your family and take them to meet Prince Harry too.

Same here. Andrew has met Jesus and is so excited that the first thing he does is find his brother Simon and bring him to Jesus. “We have found the Messiah, that is the Christ.”

And in a real sense Andrew has met a prince or King – just like if you met Prince Harry. Messiah or Christ means anointed one – one set apart for service, usually a king. But when Andrew says “We have found THE Messiah”, he is referring to the one promised in the OT, the one in David’s line, who would come and save and rule.

God had promised to raise up a King in David’s line, who would come as the Saviour and Ruler of God’s people. Andrew is saying that Jesus is the one that had been prophesied in the OT and that the Jewish nation had been waiting for for hundreds of years. And so naturally, Andrew wants his brother Simon to meet Jesus too. If you meet someone special, someone really important to you, then you want your friends and family to meet them too.

I wonder if you have met this king too.

2. V43-51 – Look! The Son of God! The King of Israel!

V43 – Time marker – next day

Jesus decides to leave for Galilee. Finds Philip and says “Follow me”. Haven’t heard of Philip before, but Jesus knows him and calls him.

V45 – Philip finds Nathanael and tells him that they have found the one whom Moses and the Prophets wrote about – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

This scene is almost identical to the previous one. Someone meets Jesus, is blown away, and the first thing they do is find their brother? and get them to meet Jesus too.

V46 – Nathanael indulges in some elitism – like series “Struggle Street” and Mount Druitt. The city of Nazareth was a small and insignificant agricultural village in the time of Jesus. It had no trade routes, was of little economic importance and was never mentioned in the Old Testament or other ancient texts. Nathanael doubts anything good could come from there, but Philip’s answer is the same as Jesus’ was the day before “Come and see.”

V47 – When Jesus sees Nathanael approaching him he says that Nathanael is a true Israelite in whom there is nothing false. Why does he say that? True Israelite here could mean someone who recognises the true King of Israel when he sees him – v12, 31.

V48 – Nathanael asks how Jesus knows him and Jesus says that he saw him while he was still under the fig tree before Philip called him.

V49 – Nathanael calls him the Son of God and the King of Israel. Nathanael is convinced by Philip's testimony and Jesus' miraculous knowledge. He calls Jesus the Son of God - he is referring again to the OT prophecies of the Messiah, who was also called the Son of God – 2 Sam 7:14

He calls Jesus the King of Israel – again a reference to the Messiah, but perhaps this time with political overtones – thought was that Messiah was going to come like King David and rescue God's people from their enemies.

Pattern – someone meets Jesus, is blown away by him, first thing they do is go get their family/friends and introduce them to Jesus. That person too is blown away by Jesus and presumably goes and gets their family/friends and introduces them to Jesus and the pattern goes on.

This is the method used by God over the past two thousand years to save people. One person meets Jesus, is blown away by him, and then introduces Jesus to his family and friends who in turn are blown away by Jesus.

Now it doesn't always work. Not everyone believes in Jesus. But it is the way that God has chosen to let people know about Jesus so that they can be saved. One person who knows Jesus introduces him to a family member or a friend.

E.G. South Korean churches.

Application: Those who know Jesus - Who have you spoken to recently about Jesus? If you haven't, why not?

Perhaps you are like me? Usually I don't tell people about Jesus b/c I am too afraid of what they might say or think about me. Or the other reason is b/c I have lost the wonder of who Jesus is. It just doesn't occur to me to say: Look! Let me tell you about this guy I know. He's amazing!

I know it's hard to sustain that and rightly so when we first meet Jesus we are super excited and want to tell everyone about him. But we need to recapture the excitement we had when we first met Jesus. We need to look again and again at who Jesus is and what he has done and be blown away by him.

Look what he's done for us!

V50-51 – Jesus tells Nathanael that he believes b/c of what Jesus said to him but he shall see greater things than that. He will see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man. Reference to Jacob's dream in Gen 28, where he sees a stairway between earth and heaven, and angels of God ascending and descending on it. In other words, pathway between heaven and earth is open. More than that, in his dream Jacob sees the Lord, who reiterates the promises given to Abraham and Isaac.

What Jesus is saying is that he is the stairway to heaven – he is the one who opens the gate and makes it possible for people to go to heaven and be with God. That is what Nathanael is going to see – Jesus opening up the pathway to heaven.

Big Idea: People meet Jesus, are blown away by Him, and then introduce their friends and family to Him.

Application:

Know that Jesus is the Messiah

Be blown away by Him

Call others to meet Him.