

The King of Israel  
John 1:35-51

What are you looking for?  
-Jesus in John 1:38

You broke the bonds  
And you loosed the chains  
Carried the cross of my shame  
Oh my shame, you know I believe it.

But I still haven't found  
What I'm looking for.

-U2

The Invitation of Jesus—“Come and See” (v. 39)

Jesus invites the curious (vv. 37-39)

The present passage portrays Jesus as both hospitable and reserved, inviting the prospective disciples to prove their interest by pressing their way through to him.

-Craig Keener

Jesus invites the honest (vv. 44-50)

45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the One Moses wrote about in the Law (and so did the prophets): Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth!”

46 “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Nathanael asked him.

“Here is a true Israelite; no deceit is in him.” (v. 47)

The Encounter with Jesus

Encountering Jesus redefines us

40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John and followed Him. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah!" (which means "Anointed One"), 42 and he brought Simon to Jesus.

When Jesus saw him, He said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which means "Rock").

Jesus...knows people thoroughly, and not only 'sees into' them (vv. 47-48) but so calls them that he makes them what he calls them to be.

-D.A. Carson

Encountering Jesus sends us out

43 The next day He decided to leave for Galilee. Jesus found Philip and told him, “Follow Me!”

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the One Moses wrote about in the Law (and so did the prophets): Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth!”

46 “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Nathanael asked him.

“Come and see,” Philip answered.

Jesus finds Philip (v. 43); Philip in turn finds Nathanael (v. 45)  
Jesus tells Philip, "Come and see" (v. 39); Philip in turn tells  
Nathanael "Come and see" (v. 46)

An encounter with Jesus will reshape you into a witness for Jesus.

Effective witness for Jesus invites others to have a personal encounter with Jesus.

61% of American twenty-somethings answered “yes” to the question “I’d be willing to study the Bible if a friend asked me to.”

-David Helm, One to One Bible Reading, pg. 15.

The Identity of Jesus (vv. 47-51)

47 Then Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him and said about him, “Here is a true Israelite; no deceit is in him.”

48 “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

“Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you,” Jesus answered.

49 “Rabbi,” Nathanael replied, “You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

50 Jesus responded to him, “Do you believe only because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.”

51 Then He said, “I assure you: You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

12 And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! 13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac...Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."

-Genesis 28:10-13, 15

Jesus is the link between heaven and earth, between God and humanity. He is not the ladder on which we ascend to God, but the ladder on which God has descended to us in grace.

How is Jesus inviting you to 'come and see' this morning?  
Where do you need an encounter with Jesus?  
How do you need to be reminded of the identity of Jesus?