

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

4) Bringing People To Jesus

What can we learn from John the Baptist?

1) His main message is that Jesus is the Lamb of God. *'Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"'* (John 1:35-36)

2) He did not gather disciples unto himself. *'The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus'* (John 1:37)

**Ministry is connecting people to Jesus
Christ-dependence, not codependency**

'Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?"' (Jn.1:38)

- ✓ **Are you legalists wanting to argue about points of the law?**
- ✓ **Blessings or the Blessor? Loaves, healing?**
- ✓ **Are you opportunists looking for position and power?**
- ✓ **Do you have an agenda like the zealots?**

'They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour)'
(John 1:38-39)

'Where are you staying (abiding)?'
This showed that they didn't want something from Him, as much as they longed to be with Him

What they desired was fellowship, connection

That's what Jesus wants too – He wants us to abide in Him

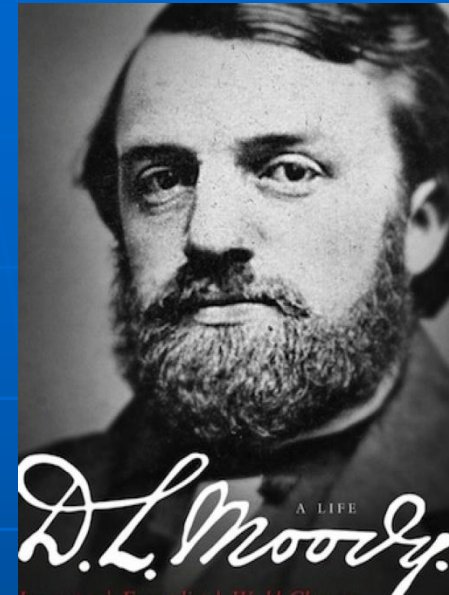
'One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone)'
(John 1:40-42)

Each time Andrew is mentioned in the Gospel of John, he is bringing someone to Jesus

Throughout the centuries, this is how most people come to faith in Jesus Christ

In 1858 a Sunday School teacher, Mr. Kimball, led a Boston shoe clerk to Christ. The clerk, Dwight L. Moody, became an evangelist. In England in 1879 his ministry impacted F. B. Meyer, pastor of a small church. F. B. Meyer, preached to an American college campus and a student named J. Wilbur Chapman came to Christ. Chapman, engaged in YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to do evangelistic work. Billy Sunday held a revival in Charlotte, N.C. A group of local men were so enthusiastic afterward that they planned another evangelistic campaign, bringing Mordecai Hamm to town to preach...

During Hamm's revival, a young man named Billy Graham heard the gospel and yielded his life to Christ. We know about Billy Graham, D L Moody, FB Meyer, Billy Sunday, but how many have heard of Mr. Kimble?



“You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone)’

A change of name implied a change of character

When you are connected to Jesus you are never the same again

You are transformed and will continue to be so



"I saw the angel
in the marble
and carved
until I set him free."
(Michelangelo)

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**"I SAW THE ANGEL IN THE MARBLE AND CARVED
UNTIL I SET HIM FREE."**

Michelangelo

'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it'

(Rev.2:17)

'The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—

Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph"'

(John 1:43-45)

**The OT cannot be properly understood unless
Christ is seen as the central theme**

**Remember, the OT is the only Scriptures the
early church had – yet they preached Jesus from
these**

He is it's main message

'And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see"'

(John 1:46)

There was jealousy and rivalry between towns like Cana and Nazareth. But probably the meaning was, can the Messiah come from there? Where is that in the OT?

Philip didn't argue with him but said, 'Come and see.' Instead of arguing against Nathanael's prejudice, Phillip simply invited him to meet Jesus for himself

'Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man"'

(John 1:47-51)

When we have an encounter with Jesus two things happen:

1) We have a revelation of who *He* is

2) We discover He knows all about *us*. *'Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God!"'* (Jn.1:49)

This was sure evidence that a work of grace had been wrought in Nathanael. The eyes of his understanding were opened to behold the deity of Jesus, and he confesses Him as 'the Son of God'

It is significant that in this fourth Gospel we find there are 7 who bear witness to Christ's deity

1) John the Baptist, *'And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God'"*
(John 1:33-34)

2) Nathanael, (John 1:49)

3) Peter, *'But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'* **(John 6:68-69)**

4) Jesus, *'... do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?' (John 10:36)*

5) Martha, *'She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world"' (John 11:27)*

6) Thomas, *'And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"' (John 20:28)*

7) John, the writer of this Gospel, *'... these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name' (John 20:31)*

***Nathanael had been deeply impressed by what he had just witnessed. But, Jesus said he would see greater things**

***He would behold an open heaven, and the earth directly connected with it**

***He would see that which the dream and vision of Jacob in the far past pointed to: the real ladder which linked earth to heaven is Christ**

Jacob received this promise at Bethel, *'In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed'

Heaven is now open because Jesus our Mediator, is the ladder between heaven and earth