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## COME & SEE ??

Ever been invited to "come and see" for yourself - some news or happening or opportunity? These are engaging words - the very words Jesus uses to encourage you to follow and believe HIM!

John 1:28-51 records the proclamation of John the Baptizer about Jesus - "**Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**" Now, two of John's disciples were standing there. Baptized by John, they're preparing for the coming Christ. The same One that John said would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Here HE is! Right in front of them! What are they to do?

Jesus says, "**Come and see.**" That's His royal request. They followed. That's the required response. Then we see the riveting reality - which we'll come to in just a bit. Now, these two disciples were paying attention. It was very unusual for disciples to leave their rabbi. But John points to Jesus as the Christ. So they left and followed Him. Understandably a bit tongue-tied, they're not quite sure what to say to Messiah. When Jesus gives His gracious reply, "**Come and see**" - it's really a royal request. Because it's the Son of God speaking. He invites, yet commands them, to trust Him. How about you? Have YOU heard the royal request of Jesus, to come and see? *Have YOU followed Him?*

The required response of a royal request is trust and obey. Do what the King says. They say yes, and follow Him. And they couldn't contain this good news. They told others. They brought them to Jesus, to see for themselves. Andrew told his brother Simon Peter, "**We have found the Messiah, the Christ,**" the One promised throughout the Old Testament, who would come to save His people. The other disciple? Most likely it was the apostle John himself, writer of the Gospel. In characteristic humility he withholds his name - here and in six other places in his book.

The next day Jesus went and found Philip, and issued another royal request, "**Follow Me.**" It's what Jesus explains in John 15:16 "**You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit.**" And that's what happens. In the Gospels and Acts we see Andrew and Philip and other disciples bringing people to Jesus. "Disciple" means "follower, learner." So - next, Philip finds Nathanael and says, "**we have found Him**" written about by Moses and the Prophets. Nathanael isn't sure. Philip says, "**Come and see.**" When Nathanael meets Christ, he says, "**Rabbi, You are the Son of God - the King of Israel.**" That's also the witness of the wisemen at His birth and the inscription on His cross.

The reality is we are found by Jesus, who came "**to seek and save the lost.**" You must either receive Him or reject Him. To believe means you're regenerated, born again from above by the Holy Spirit to become a child of God. But from our human perspective, we then realize that HE is all that we've been looking for. These episodes recount the unique calling of five different personalities. The other three Gospels don't give exactly the same account as John. That's because together, the Gospels record two different aspects - initial calling and response, then their later "hit-the-road" commitment, another day.

Each conversion experience is full of deep theology, but the words are simple - "**come and see!**" - words YOU can use to help bring others to Christ who says, "**Follow Me.**" *Invite! WHO can you tell today?*

Now, what about the riveting reality? That's the rest of the story - because discipleship is a dangerous calling. Following Jesus seems risky to the world. Foolish. Costly. But the rewards are out of this world.

Jesus said, "OK, you believe in Me... **but you will see greater things than these. Amen, truly, you all will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.**" Incredible. It's a picture from Daniel 7 - and points to the deity of Jesus, who ascends to the throne of heaven - a picture of the completion of His atonement, redemption of His people, and return to reign.

Paraphrasing G.K. Chesterton, Jesus promises disciples three things: 1, you will be amazingly without fear; 2, you will be absurdly happy; 3, you will always be in trouble. As the Gospel account unfolds, we see all of these things come true in the lives of the disciples. *Trials, tribulations, ultimate triumph.*

The disciples left everything to follow Him. Boats, nets, livelihood, family. Jesus promises you get it back, a hundred-fold. On earth and heaven. Delivered from every dangerous trap. Forever. And if you truly have said YES to Jesus, you will bring more and more people to become part of His forever family too!