

John # 28 “Come and See For Yourself” *John 1:35-51*

Jesus had pre-eminence over John the Baptist although John was 6 months older because Jesus pre-existed John as the God-man so He obviously had the higher ranking due to His superior unique position.

John the Baptist’s reaction is similar to that of virtually the entire nation of Israel in not recognizing Jesus and His ministry although He was right in front of them;

John 1:11 ‘He came to that which was His own but His own did not receive Him.’

In God’s timing, His Son Jesus was revealed to John the Baptist first and then through John’s proclamation to the rest of Israel and that marked the start of Jesus’ public ministry; Galatians 4:4-5 ‘But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.’

John the Baptist in typical John the Baptist fashion was witnessing to a large crowd with a message of repentance which means ‘You need to change your mind about Messiah, guys.’

Whatever John was teaching his disciples in regard to witnessing for Jesus Christ was interrupted to introduce Jesus, Himself to them.

A witness for Jesus Christ may use varying approaches to share the Gospel but his message must focus on the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world to include theirs.

John the Baptist knows full well that he is called to be a witness who is never greater than the Subject of his message.

An evangelist for Jesus Christ must remain invisible after he leads anyone to the Lord and that’s why John the Baptist happily watched these two fly from his nest to much greater heights!

So, Jesus asks a provocative question: ‘What do you want?’ and they respond with a question for Him indicating they’re not sure what they really want or at least how to put it in the form of an answer that wouldn’t make them sound like fools but one thing is for sure, they’re no fools for following the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, Israel’s true Messiah.

Jesus’ first words in *John* are ‘What do you want?’ and His last words in John 21:22 are ‘You must follow Me!’ and between the two, we have pages upon pages of good news about this One we are to follow and just like all of us when we were new believers, Andrew and John weren’t quite sure what they wanted but they were following Jesus Christ and that’s what mattered most.

The Lord Jesus saw something in them that they didn’t realize existed; something we need to realize; that the body of Christ may be weak if its members stand alone but there’s no stopping us if we work in unison.

Christianity is not a religion but a relationship with Jesus Christ and God our Father through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit in us.

Andrew and John who were disciples of John the Baptist heard him announce that Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God and as a result, they followed the Lord and found their Savior and the Savior of the world.

Andrew came for himself to see and when he had seen, he began to call others to come and see for themselves.

Following Jesus during His earthly ministry meant to be in a personal relationship with Him and it must be noted that the one who follows shares in the entire life of the One he follows, he shares in His happy times as well as His suffering times.

Following Jesus is far beyond the physical act of walking behind Him like a puppy, it's actually thinking like He thought and acting as He acted.

Nathanael couldn't fully understand all that Jesus is but he was expressing faith alone in Him alone as Israel's Messiah and God.

Jesus called Nathanael an Israelite and now Nathanael bows before the King of Israel, his King.

For Philip it was Jesus approaching him and for Andrew and John it was the witness testimony of John the Baptist and for Peter it was his big brother bringing him to Jesus Christ to come and see for himself, so in each case it was just what was needed to reach the lost.

By coming to see for themselves and then following the Lord, they would see great things like Heaven opening for the ascending and descending of angels who would bring the power and love of God available to men, as seen in the Son of Man.