

4. Jesus Met More Future Disciples

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn about the “Four Calls and a Commission” that Jesus gave to His disciples. These are also the same calls that He gives to each of us. The four calls are: Come and See, Come and Grow, Come and Serve, and Come and Shepherd. These were followed by the Commission - as you are going, “Make Disciples.” We want to help our children learn to respond to each of these calls and learn how to carry out that commission.

Jesus invited two men to come and just spend a few hours with Him. One of those men was Andrew. Once Andrew got acquainted with Jesus, the very first thing that he did was invite his brother to meet Jesus. John 1:40-42 says, “One of the two who heard John *speaking*, 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 the Baptist had introduced these two disciples to Jesus. Now, we see that the first thing that Andrew did once he met Jesus was to introduce his brother to Jesus.

Andrew gives us a great example that we want to help our physical and spiritual children fully understand and then show them how to apply it in their own lives. Andrew is only mentioned three times in the book of John. This is the first time, and in these verses, we see that Andrew brought his brother to Jesus. The second mention of Andrew is in John 6:8-9, where we read, “One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, ‘There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?’” In these verses, we see that Andrew found a boy and brought him to Jesus. Then, John 12:20-22 says, “Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.” Philip did not know what to do but Andrew did. He brought these Greeks to meet Jesus. Andrew truly became a fisher of men.

In these verses, we also see how Andrew was able to bring his brother to Jesus. He told his brother just one thing about Jesus. Andrew said, “‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ).” Simon Peter was familiar with the Old Testament. He was waiting for the coming of the Messiah, which means “The Anointed One.” As a result, he was ready to meet Jesus when Andrew said that they had found the Messiah. Some people are like Peter and just need someone to introduce them to Jesus, the Messiah. God had already prepared the heart of Peter and the same will be true for some of the people that we and our children meet.

When Andrew brought Simon to Jesus, we see that Jesus immediately gave him a new name. He said that his name was Simon but that his new name would be Cephas which is the Aramaic (the language of Israel at that time) word for “a stone”. The name Peter is the Greek word for “a rock or a stone.” Jesus gave Simon this new name to show what he was going to become as he followed Jesus. Jesus also changes our lives as we follow Him.

John 1:43-46 tells us what happened the next day. Those verses say, “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.’ And Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see’.” Here, we see that the next day Jesus also invited Philip to spend time with him and get acquainted.

Just like Andrew, the first thing that Philip did after he met Jesus was to go and tell someone else. In this case, he told his friend Nathanael. However, Nathanael was not as quick to believe as Peter had been, especially when Philip said that Jesus was from the town of Nazareth. John 21:2 says that Nathanael was from the town of Cana as that verse says, “Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.” The people of Galilee had a negative attitude toward the people of Nazareth. We see that Nathanael thought that nothing good could come from that town. Philip did not argue with Nathanael about whether anything good could come out of Nazareth. Instead, he just said, “Come and See.” Here, we see an important lesson about sharing with others about Jesus.

Instead of trying to debate with a person, we should just share what the Bible says about Jesus. Hebrews 4:12 tells us, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” God also gave a promise in Isaiah 55:11. God promised in that verse, “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.” By just sharing the Word of God, we are working with the Trinity and God will accomplish His purpose through His Word.

We are working with the Trinity because John 16:8-11 says, “‘And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.’” The Holy Spirit convinces those who are not Christians of the sin of unbelief. He convinces unbelievers of the fact that Jesus is the Righteous One. He convinces unbelievers of the fact that Satan has already been judged and those who continue to follow him will share in his judgment. God said that The Seed of woman would defeat Satan in Genesis 3:15 where we read, “‘And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.’” Satan knew that he was defeated when Jesus rose from the dead.

We see that we are also working with the Trinity as we share the Word of God with others because John 6:44 says. “‘No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.’” The Father uses the Word that is shared in love to draw individuals to Jesus. Then, Luke 19:10 says, “‘For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.’” Then, Romans 10:17 adds, “‘So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.’” Taken together, we see that the Holy Spirit convicts, the Father draws, and the Son seeks

and saves those who are lost as we share the Word of God with others in love.

We see that Philip brought Nathanael to meet Jesus. John 1:47-51 says, “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.’” Jesus saw Nathanael coming with Philip; and as soon as Nathanael arrived, Jesus described the character of Nathanael.

Nathanael was amazed that Jesus knew all about his character when he had never met Jesus before. He realized immediately that only the Son of God could have such knowledge. John 2:24-25 says, “But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all *men*, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.” Nathanael recognized that Jesus knew his heart. As an Israelite who avoided deceit, Nathanael was very familiar with 1 Samuel 16:7 which says, “But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the LORD does* not see as man *sees*; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’” Nathanael, immediately, recognized the fact that Jesus knew his heart and that showed that Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus went on to assure Nathanael that he would see much greater things. Nathanael saw that Jesus had divine knowledge because Jesus knew where he was when Philip invited him to come and meet Jesus. However, Jesus also said that Nathanael would see much greater things in the future. Nathanael became one of the twelve that Jesus chose to be with Him. As a result, he saw many of the miracles of Jesus. However, the greatest of all of the miracles happened when he saw Jesus alive again after the crucifixion and resurrection. He spent the rest of his life telling others about that event.

Jesus also told Nathanael about one particular event that he would see in the future. He had heard about Jesus from a friend. However, he would later hear the Father confirm that Jesus is the Son of God. The father spoke from heaven when Jesus was baptized by John. Matthew 3:17 says, “And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” The Father spoke again in John 12:28 when Jesus said, “‘Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, ‘I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again.’” The life of Nathanael was changed because He got to know Jesus. In the same way, we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand that their lives will be changed and transformed as they get to really know Jesus and learn to walk with Him. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children really get to know Jesus.