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# The Two Greatest Invitations

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## Come and See

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“Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” 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 the tenth hour).” John 1:38,39

If you’ve never lived in an eastern culture you would probably skip over this very important encounter in John 1 without fully understanding the implications. In eastern cultures, when you want to start or build a relationship with someone you begin by asking to come see where he lives. It is not at all considered intrusive, but a kind gesture, because what the person is really saying is this: “I want to get to know you.” So when John’s two disciples left John and decided to follow Jesus, they did so by asking Him: “Where are you staying?” It is more than just asking for an address, and probably would not go over very well here in the West, but it is still that way in the East, even in Africa where Katherine and I minister. John’s disciples were saying, we want to know YOU— Jesus.

The goal of every discipleship making effort is to get people to Jesus. John the Baptist didn’t wince when his disciples decided to follow Jesus and leave him in the dust. Jesus is the One John had been looking for and speaking of. It was for Jesus whom John had been preparing the way. By all means, follow Him!

As Jesus turned around He noticed Andrew and his friend following Him asking them: “What do you seek?” I believe Jesus is still asking that same question today, even of people in the church. “What do you seek?” To put it in modern language: “What do you want?” We all come to Jesus wanting something — a blessing, a healing, a good life, purpose, or maybe even heaven after we die. I don’t believe the Lord begrudges those motivations, but what I do believe is that He is hoping you will want to come to His house, to see where He lives. His hope is that you would be more interested in Him than what He can do for you. He longs for relationship and His invitation is simple: “Come and See”. It’s not about just “going” to church. It’s about becoming His bride. Ask yourself honestly: “Why do I follow Jesus?”

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## Follow Me!

“The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him,  
“Follow Me.” John 1:43

Jesus is looking for few good men and women! In His day He was not looking for just anybody interested. In fact, that Jesus was doing the looking says a bunch. It was He who “found” Philip. On His way to Galilee, Jesus wanted to take someone along. What our Lord does is always intentional. His purpose was to find someone who might potentially be a faithful disciple. A faithful disciple is one who will recruit others to be disciples and teach them what He was taught. Jesus wasn’t looking for mere companionship, or someone to carry his bags or perhaps protect Him from bandits, He was looking for someone special to pour Himself into.

There was no general call here to the masses to follow Jesus, at least not in this instance. This was a specific call to a specific man — Philip. It was an invitation from Jesus to come and walk with Him for the purpose of learning from the master. The words “Follow Me” are full of implication. To follow Jesus, especially by specific invitation, was a great privilege and a high calling. In Jewish culture it was the “rabbi” who did the choosing and not the other way around. This “Rabbi” chose Philip. In doing so Philip would follow Him, live with Him, watch and observe Him, and eventually do what He does. It required a total life change leaving everything else behind to sit at the Master’s feet. Choosing the right disciples was critical for it would be they who would continue the ministry once Jesus left for glory to sit at the right hand of the Father.

Somehow, whether by observation, conversation, or the leading of the Holy Spirit, Jesus knew Philip was His man. This was immediately evident as the first thing Philip did was to go and tell his brother, Nathaniel, about Jesus. Jesus “found” Philip. Philip found Nathaniel and tells him how he had “found” Jesus, the one of whom Moses and the prophets wrote. There was a whole lot of finding going on in this short story.

That is the way discipleship works. Jesus “finds” us. We become His disciples, and then we must find those who will make good disciples. We must find people who will make good disciples by observation, conversation, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We mustn’t just choose anyone when it comes to investing ourselves, our time and our energy because those things are very precious. Who has time and energy to waste? But the fact is, we must find someone. We must do as Jesus did.

You are called by invitation to follow Jesus. It means following Him into new adventures. It means letting go of the things of this world and grasping for eternal treasures. It means sitting at Jesus’ feet. It means taking up your cross. It means being an obedient student of the Word of God. It means getting to know God like you’ve never known Him before. It means that you walk as Jesus walked and make disciples. Are you willing to follow Him?

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