

FOLLOWING JESUS**The “Conversations with Jesus” Sermon Series****Pt. 1 of 5****John 1:5****STARTER: Following Jesus**

This is the first of the five-part sermon series of some of the conversations Jesus had. This is an examination of the conversations Jesus had with the first disciples as he invited them to follow Him and develop a personal relationship with Him. He knew them and His approach to them was based on His knowledge of them.

Read: John 1: 35-51**What are the main lessons/take away from the passage?**

What are you looking for in Life?

Let us do a recap of the main points that Pastor Mark shared about conversations he had with the first disciples.

I. Andrew and John Follow Jesus - v.35-39

1. The method: Preacher’s Message. The message was done by John the Baptist. The main content of the message was that he pointed the message to Jesus. “Look the lamb of God”. God used the message/sermon to point Andrew and John to Jesus. This is a reminder that we should invite.

2. The barrier: Their past.

3. Their character. That is how God made them. They were people-centered. Jesus’ call was according to their personality

4. Jesus’ call: He starts with relationship. He connected with them and brought them to where He was staying. They had His undivided attention for hours. Jesus wants to spend quality time with you.

What do you suppose he talked with them about?

II. Peter Follows Jesus - v.40-42

Andrew’s, Simon Peter’s brother, first act after being called was to run to his brother, Peter, and bring him to Jesus. Andrew is always bringing someone to Jesus throughout his ministry.

What are some of the examples in the Bible of this?

1. The method: Personal Message – Someone who personally brought him to Jesus.

2. The barrier: Pride. Peter was led to Jesus by his younger brother. Peter could let his pride stop him from moving forward.

3. His character: Peter was purpose-centered. Peter’s name means “little stone”. However, Jesus saw him for who he really was and who he could become.

4. Jesus’ call: He gives a life challenge. Jesus called him to be a Rock. He was encouraged to walk in his destiny and allow God to do something special in his life. God wants to use us all for greater things.

III. Philip Follows Jesus - v.43**“Finding Phillip”**

1. The method: A personal experience. Jesus is more about connecting with you. He will pursue you. What are some examples of God pursuing others? (E.g. Jonah)

Do you believe God wants to speak something just for you?

2. The barrier: No one brought him

3. His character: He was very peace-centered. God knows his character.
4. Jesus' call: Simple – "Follow me" Where He leads you, follow and He will show you your next steps.

IV. Nathanael Follows Jesus - v.44-51

Phillip told Nathaniel about Jesus of Nazareth. When Nathaniel heard that he was surprised. That's because he didn't expect "anything good from Nazareth". Phillip may have gotten the doctrine wrong but God still used him. Don't worry that you don't know the scriptures well enough to share the gospel.

Jesus knew him. He understood that Nathaniel had to read the Jewish writings at least once per day and he did so underneath the fig tree. That was a way to get alone with God and connect with Him. Jesus said "I saw you under the fig tree".

What is the significance of that?

It meant that Jesus truly perceived what was in his mind and heart. Jesus could see his inner being. Nathaniel was seeking a religious experience, but Jesus wants a personal relationship with him. Jesus said "little faith can lead to great experiences". Jesus told Nathaniel that he will see many new things. Jesus said that He is the way the truth and the light. He is the ladder and the connector with God.

1. The method: A persistent witness.
2. The barrier: Prejudice. (Place where Jesus was from)
3. His character: He was very internally-centered. Get alone to learn more. He desired to learn more about the Word.
4. Jesus' call: "I see your heart". He knows you and wants to connect with you. He wants a relationship with you.

DISCUSSION POINTS

It is our duty to share our belief with others. We can play a significant role in helping to the spread of the gospel. God wants to use you as an individual to impact people's lives. He wants to use you to bring your family to him.

What are the various ways we can win souls for the Kingdom?

Where can Jesus be found?

Where do I think Jesus stays?

Where can I find Him in my life?

In what places, in what people, in what situations can Jesus be seen?

Is he only to be found in the tabernacles of our churches?

The only way we can know where Jesus stays is by a personal experience of meeting Him where He is. That is something which everyone can do, and it is something we need do all the time. There is no place, person or situation where He cannot be found.

Diving Deeper:

Ask yourself these questions/reflect on the following:

1. How many people, who could do great things for Jesus and the Kingdom, are waiting for you to bring them to Jesus?
2. How does an individual's personality reveal the best approach?
3. How did you come to know Jesus?
4. Reflect with gratitude on the persons who have brought you to Jesus and have helped you to grow closer to Him.