

THE FIRST DISCIPLES

LESSONS FOR THIS SERIES —

1. John the Baptist's story shows how a person can understand and accept their role in the Kingdom and then fulfill it.
2. When someone looked at John the Baptist, they saw Jesus. What do people see when they look at me?

THE SCRIPTURES

"The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹"Come," He replied, "and you will see." So, they went and saw where He was staying, and spent that day with Him. It was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter)." - John 1:35-42

SEEING

- John (the Baptist) sees Jesus passing by and repeats his message from the day before... "It's Him, the Lamb of God." That's seven times!
- Two disciples (of John) hear the message (of John) and follow Jesus.
 - John (the Gospel writer), and Andrew (brother of Simon Peter)
- Two disciples (of John) see Jesus... and Jesus sees them!

"Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" - John 1:38a
- Jesus already knew, but He wanted to make sure they knew.
 - He didn't ask them "who", but "what" do you want.
- They knew their need since they'd been following John the Baptist.

SEEKING

- Just because they followed Jesus doesn't mean Andrew and John became devoted disciples... yet...

"When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus." - John 1:37

"At once they left their nets and followed Him... ²⁰Without delay He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed Him." - Mark 1:18, 20

"He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach." - Mark 3:14

- Andrew and John answer with a question. Why?

"They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" - John 1:38b

 - More privacy?
 - more time?
 - more intimacy?
- Jesus gives them intimate access to Himself.

"Come," He replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where He was staying, and spent that day with Him. It was about the tenth hour." - John 1:39

SHARING

- Andrew becomes the first evangelist and sets a great pattern.
 1. He tells his brother about Jesus. (v. 41)
 2. He takes his brother to Jesus. (v. 42)

SPEAKING

- "Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter)." - John 1:42b*
- Jesus' words to Peter serve two functions:
 1. ...to inform him that this is a life-changing commitment.
 2. ...to challenge him to "become" what God has designed to be.

STOPPING

- We only encounter John the Baptist one other time.
- When we do see him again, his humility shines through once more.

"They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—well, He is baptizing, and everyone is going to Him." ³⁰"He must become greater; I must become less." - John 3:26,30

WHAT STANDS OUT HERE?

1. How readily do I "see" Jesus in my daily life?
2. What would I say if Jesus asked, "What do you want?"
3. Am I a follower, a student, or a devoted disciple?
4. What would I do if I were with Jesus alone until "the tenth hour"?
5. How active am I in Andrew-esque evangelism?
6. How do I or will I respond when Jesus challenges me to become who He envisioned me to be?

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