

“Come and See”

01-18-15

Have you ever gone to a restaurant recommended by a friend? Have you ever rented a movie because someone else said they thought you'd enjoy it or because they said it was fantastic? Normally we are more likely to follow the recommendations from someone we know and trust, right? Or are you of those who instead trusts salespeople and telemarketers?

Turn to John 1. Jesus has been baptized by John, been sent to the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, and now is ready to begin His ministry. He's already called Andrew, who's told his brother Peter to come and see Jesus. Jesus continues building His team by also calling Phillip, and look what Phillip does! Look at verses 44-46, *“Phillip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Phillip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Phillip said to him, “Come and See.”* What a negative comment about Nazareth from Nathanael!

Out of all the people in our story, Jesus is the one who's giving the invitations to follow Him. He's the one who invites us to consider who He is as the Son of God, and we need to **Come and See Jesus**. We need to meet and take Him as our own. As we come to worship, we have the opportunity to know Him better and learn from Him each day and have Him change our life as we follow Him. As a statement on our business cards years ago, there was a short statement that told who we are. The card gave our name and said right under it, “A place to meet Jesus!” As we come to worship Him, what do we Come and See about Jesus Christ? What do we learn about Him and what do we receive?

Savior. That's the reason He came to earth. We're drowning in our sin. Each day, we continually turn away from God and seek our own way. Listen to these words from Titus 2:13-14, *“waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.”*

Forgiveness. There's no way we can receive forgiveness unless Jesus is involved. We're not capable of forgiving ourselves, yet alone forgiving others. Even though we don't deserve it, Jesus forgives us! Listen to Ephesians 4:23, *“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”*

Love. Jesus is a God of love! It was love that brought Him to earth. We learn that from John 3:16, where God tells us why He sent His One and Only Son. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”* Think about what kind of incredible love this is! We go against Him every day, but instead of Him giving up on us, He loves us.

When you Come and See Jesus, you realize His love is never ending and it's an example for you to follow in your life always. It was His love that reminds you that you are His! 1 John 3:1, *“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should*

be called children of God and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.”

That’s the greatest reason for us to be here! The world around us doesn’t see Jesus and we need to actively be His ambassadors sharing Him with a world in need. Everything we say and do needs to show Jesus. When people walk in the doors on this building they should be over whelmed with the love of Jesus! That’s our mission, that’s our work! 1 John 3:23, *“And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us!”*

Grace. From the front of Max Lucado’s book by that same name, that was part of our congregational read last year, *“Grace – More than we deserve, greater than we imagine.”* Turn to Ephesians 2. Grace is a free gift, something we don’t expect or see coming. Verses 8-10, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*

We need to act with Grace as we meet people around us. As we walk, we must show undeserved love to everyone. This isn’t always the easy, but it’s possible because God is with us wherever we go. As you see other people and you see your mission to bring them to see Jesus, you’ll be changed!

Lastly, the most important thing of all: **Life**. You are forgiven, you have been called His own, and He has given you a mission. Come and See Jesus. Come and See the King of kings and Lord of lords. Because of what He has done for you, you have life here and life for eternity. 1 John 2:25 has a very clear message, *“And this is the promise that He made to us—eternal life.”* What a wonderful message to bring to other people as you ask them to Come and See!

Jesus invites you to follow Him. He invites you to get to know Him. Jesus wants you to confess Him as Lord and Son of God to everyone! May you and those you meet respond like those first two disciples and “Come and See Jesus!”