

Sept 3rd, 2023
The Way
John 1:35-42

Open with prayer

**Psalm - 62. For extra reading*

Read for insight into the scripture

We can claim to be anything we want. It is easy to say, "I am a cook", but you order out all the time. Maybe you say "I love to read", but cannot remember the last time you sat down and opened a book. You say, I am married, because you walked down the aisle and filled out a form, but your life is self serving and all you do is work late, travel and make plans that further your career and do not act like you have a spouse...we can do this in the small things and we do with the major roles in life. Being a Christian is no different, especially in our American context. It is easy to say, "I am a Christian, I prayed a prayer, I asked Jesus to save me from my sins." While at the same time, we have to seriously take a look at our life and ask ourselves, "Am I a follower of Jesus, or am I just saying that I am?" As we step into the scripture and discussion today, let's answer this question honestly:

What would you say is your measuring stick for success? Or what are you looking for in this life?

Read John 1:35-46

What stands out to you in this scripture?

Vs 37. These men leave the person they were learning under to follow Jesus.

- ***What question do they ask Jesus? Why?***
- ***How does Jesus respond? Why?***
- ***And what did they do?***

To them, following Jesus literally meant to walk with him, behind him, to learn from him. So this is going to beg us to ask the question...

- ***What does it look like for us to follow after Jesus today?***

The greek word Jesus uses for "follow". Is a combination of two words. **A or alpha** which means "**beginning**" and **keleuthos** which means "**road or the way**".

When he says "follow me", Jesus is saying, "I am the beginning of the way."

Jesus calls us to follow him as well; To be his disciples; To do what he did; **To embody the way of Jesus.**

Following Jesus will constantly change us and lead us into new depths, new life, abundant life. Scripture shows us that when we follow Jesus it changes us.

Vs 42 is very significant, Simon was a name; Cephas/Peter was not a name...Jesus was giving him a new identity. Rock. This was the God given Identity that Peter was now going to walk in. Jesus is changing the narrative for these men's existence and wants to do the same with us.

• **How has your identity changed since you started following Jesus?**

In Vs. 43 Jesus is saying, "Come and see." The response of Philip after following Jesus is invitation for others to see and experience.

Our response to knowing Jesus is inviting others to see him too.

Our faith is inherently transformational, relational and invitational.

How is this scripture speaking to you? What is the Lord using it to call you to?

This first story of Jesus' interaction and ministry begins with him recognizing the needs of people. Jesus then invites them on a journey. It seems as though we are inviting on a similar journey. Jesus invites us to practice his ways. If we know and abide in him, if we are changed by and through him and his ways, and we live out and embody what Jesus did and taught, how will our lives or community look different?

Abide in Jesus. Changed by Jesus. Embody the ways of Jesus.

Practice for this week:

The reality in this is that our faith SHOULD BE transformational, relational, and invitational. Is your faith journey one that you consider worth inviting someone into?

Prayer Request and closing Prayer

Ask if anyone has any prayers they would like to add to our prayer team, report back to Sarah. sarah@thechapelatseaside.com

Quotes from Sermon

"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." — Augustine of Hippo, Confessions

"The man who rings the bell at the brothel is unconsciously looking for God."

"Abiding is like inhaling the reality of the Kingdom of God, especially through internalizing the words of God and then putting those words into action." Dallas Willard/