

J.J.

COME AND SEE
John 1:35-50

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And they said to Him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are You staying?”

39 Jesus said to them, “Come and see.”

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When Jesus saw him, He said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

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

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, as well as the prophets, wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

46 Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”

Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him and said concerning him, “Here is an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile.”

48 Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?”

Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

49 Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

50 Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” 51 And He said to him, “Truly, truly I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

INTRODUCTION :

As a pastor by God’s grace, one of the concerns that fellow Christians ask me when I encourage them to introduce Christ to others is they don’t know what to say.

The story is told about an old barber who had just been gloriously saved in an old-fashioned revival meeting. He was so on fire that he wanted to share the gospel to others. The next morning at work he wanted to share his new faith and witness to the lost. A customer came in, and asked for a haircut and a shave.

After the haircut, the man put foam on his customer's face and was ready to shave him. tHe was trying to muster up the right words to say. Finally as he stood with his razor poised over the man's throat he asked, "Are you prepared to meet God?" The man quickly ran away with lather on his face.

By God's grace, I was given the task to preach on John 1:39

John 1:39 Jesus said to them, "Come and see."

So they came and saw where He stayed and remained with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

If we study, the context of the John Chapter 1

- John is introducing who Jesus is to both Jews and Gentiles by using language that both Jews and Greeks will understand "logos" ... "In the beginning was the Word..."
- Then you will see further that John the Apostle, showed that John the Baptist was introducing his own disciples to Christ
- Then these disciples followed Christ and then it shows these disciples introducing Christ to others

I saw this statistics in 1980 Gallup poll, "only two percent (of Christians) had introduced another person to Christ."

- J.K. Johnston, Why Christians Sin, Discovery House, 1992, p. 140.

Today, by God's grace, WE'LL SEE what we need to do in order for people to know Christ our Lord.

There are only three things we should remember doing to give a chance for people to know Christ : POINT, BRING, INVITE

Let's start with

I. POINT

John 1: 35 Again, the next day John was standing with two of his disciples. 36 Looking upon Jesus as He walked, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

Let's look at John first :

Right from the beginning, John knew his mission in life.

What was his mission? You can see it in the preceding passage when some of the Jewish leaders were asking who he was.

John 1: 22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Illustration : If you're following the World Series, last night the Blue Jays lost. It's going to be disappointing for some of the athletes there as they worked all season long to get at this point and not get the crown. But some of them know who they are...

These Blue Jays players were asked "Tell me how important the name of Jesus is to you."

Addison Barger : "To me it's more important than anything in keeping my faith in Jesus. I mean having Him everyday, you know it's everything. I mean I know whether I play good or bad I know that I'm loved and that's only that really matters."

Bo Bichette: "I mean it's everything, you know, uh, you know my whole life I've prayed to stay grounded through all this through accomplishments and through failures whatever it is, I say there's no way that I could stay as close to who I have been my whole life without God."

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. : JESUS CHRIST IS EVERYTHING.

The question is : Who is Jesus Christ to you? Because that will determine your mission in life.

John knew that his mission in life is to point people to Christ.

One thing we need to remember :

YOUR MISSION DETERMINES YOUR DIRECTION. Your mission in life determines your direction in life.

As a Christian, we must follow the Lord's mission.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.

If this is our mission, we will look at people differently. We will look at them as lost without Christ. We will point them to Christ.

Why should we point them to Christ?

Death by GPS : March 19, 2011 a Canadian couple got lost in the Nevada desert, they were stranded in rough desert road where they got stuck when their van lost traction and got stuck. With the weather worsening, three days later, the husband got out of the van to get help but died. His wife was found 7 ½ weeks later (May 6); starving, dehydrated and cold but fortunately still alive.

This couple died because they thought they were going on the right direction but was they did not know they were being misled.

Sometimes people think their life is on the right direction even without Christ. I'm happy, I'm religious, I have money, my kids are healthy and etc. But here's what the Bible says,

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

They don't know in the end, without Christ, all of these are nothing and folks ending up going to hell.

That's why we need to point them to Christ.

John 1: 35 Again, the next day John was standing with two of his disciples. 36 Looking upon Jesus as He walked, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

The disciples of John were Jews, they knew what he means when he says, "Look, the Lamb of God." He even expounded it in the previous verse 29 when Jesus approached John

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

It's because the Jews know that before you can go into the presence of God, they need to sacrifice a perfect Lamb. John is saying Jesus is the perfect Lamb, that's why you can now go directly to God.

This is the reason why we need to point people to Jesus Christ.

Quote : The No.1 Problem in the world is sin. (It's not climate change. It's not poverty. It's not the democrats or the republicans or the conservatives or the liberals. The no.1 problem in the world is sin.) And the only solution is Jesus Christ.

Remember the Spiritual truths?

- God loves you so much that He wants to spend eternal life with us and give us a meaningful life.
- The reason why people don't experience a meaningful life is because of sin.
- And God gave Jesus Christ to take away that sin.

The perfect time to point people to Christ are the times when they are down and depressed and they find no meaning in life at all. JESUS CHRIST IS THE ANSWER.

Illustration : We are currently living in a world where people are wealthiest, living longer, have more technology and information than previous generations. But depression is on the rise specially among the young folks between the ages 15 to 24.

World Health Organization says that depression is the top cause of disability nowadays (people who can't function normally)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/depression-who-1.3996982>

Earlier, I mentioned that in 1980, only 2% of Christians have introduced others to Christ. But I saw recent poll in April 2025 by Barna that starting in 2019 up to 2025, there has been a steady rise of Gen Z and Millennials who made a personal commitment to follow Christ.

Why? It's because even if this generation has more wealth, knowledge and technology than any other generation, they are finding out it has given their life meaning, thus the increase in depression.

This is the perfect opportunity for Christians to point people back to Christ. Why point them to Christ? It's because you have experienced yourself who Christ is in your life. If you have experienced in your life the times when you were down and Christ lifted you up, we will point people to Christ.

OUR JOB IS TO POINT THEM TO CHRIST.

How you say? By telling them, how He gave you peace in spite of all the trials that you have.

That's why it's important for us always be rejoicing, to always be thankful (Philippians 4:8)...always be trusting in the Lord so that people see the difference in us. Our very lives should be pointing to Christ.

Quote : "Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread." D.T. Niles

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Have you seen a person who is hungry and then "busog"(full)? Let people see how full you are in Christ? (Check the person beside you if they are busog)

II. BRING

You might ask, "Pastor, how can I bring people to Christ?" That's a good question.

Let's look at the verse.

John 1: 40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means the Christ). 42 Then he brought him to Jesus.

Remember, in the preceding verse, Andrew was formerly a disciple of John the Baptist was the one who spent time with Jesus.

37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 Then Jesus turned, saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?"

And they said to Him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are You staying?"

39 Jesus said to them, "Come and see."

So they came and saw where He stayed and remained with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

This means they spent time listening to His Word and that's the reason Andrew was convinced Jesus is the Christ. He placed his faith on who Jesus is.

Remember, the only way people will have faith is when they hear the Word of Christ.

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

So how do we bring people to Christ? Bring them to the place where the Word of God is preached. Bring them to church. A church is not a building. In Greek, church is ekklesia, which means called out people. A church is where believers in Christ gather to hear God's Word. Remember we gather here to worship but as equally as important to hear God's Word.

Romans 10: 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

Most of you here know who Jesus Christ is. But how did you come to know Jesus Christ? It's because someone loved you enough to bring you to church.

Illustration: In a small part in South America, there was a revival that was happening where the wives were seeing changes in their husbands. They were becoming more loving and more responsible. People took a closer look. It's because Christian men started to bring their friends to church and these men gave their lives to Christ and started bringing other men to church. The wives noticed this and then they started going to church with their husbands to listen to God's Word.

It's because people's lives are changed when they come to know Christ. LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED TO happened to Simon, when his brother Andrew brought him to Christ to hear His Word.

42 Then he brought him to Jesus.

When Jesus saw him, He said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

Do you want change to happen to your husband or your wife or your kids? Bring them to church.

III. INVITE.

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

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, as well as the prophets, wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46 Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

Philip said to him, "Come and see."

We can bring people to Christ if we invite them.

But do you know the biggest reason people are not pointing or bringing or inviting people to Christ?

Here's the statistics

9% They were too busy to remember

28% Felt lack of information

12% their own lives were not speaking as they should

51% said the fear of how the other person would react!

That's understandable. When Philip said that they found the Messiah, the Old Testament was talking about, look at the reaction of Nathaniel?

46 Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

Remember this, when you tell other people about Christ. Maybe half of the time, the reaction of the people you talk to would be like the reaction of Nathaniel.

Remember, the reason why he said, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” It’s because Nazareth was a small inconsequential town. It’s just like saying, “Huh? Brampton? Can any good thing come out of Jane and Finch?”

But again that didn’t stop Philip to INVITE, “ Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

And when we invite people to church and they hear God’s Word, that’s when the Lord takes over and shows Himself to that person and change that person.

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him and said concerning him, “Here is an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile.”

48 Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?”

Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

49 Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

NOTICE THE CHANGE IN NATHANIEL. He was a skeptic and then he became a believer.

Weren’t some of us like that before? When our friend or a brother or a family member invited us to church, we said yes, but we were very skeptical but when we heard God’s Word, as if God was speaking directly to us and that changed our attitude towards Christ.

Personal Testimony : When I married my wife I was in the old religion. I never liked born-again Christians. And yet, I know my soon-to-be wife’s father was a pastor. One of the things I said to my wife, “In order for us not to fight, don’t talk about religion with me.” And so we got married. We lived in a separate house beside my father-in-law’s house at that time. I even wanted to put an altar of statues in the house. Little did I know, my wife asked his dad what to do? And her dad advised not to contradict me and just submit. Sometime in 1996, Saturday, there was a retreat in the church was my father-in-law was pastoring. He casually invited me to go. I said, “yes”, out of respect, without any intention of going. So that Saturday, I cleaned the entire house, cleaned the car just so I have an excuse on why I wasn’t able to go. But after cleaning everything, there was a tug in my heart telling me to go. So I asked my wife, “Should I go?” Of course, she said yes. That was already almost at the end of the day.

When I arrived at church, I was wearing shorts, I sat at the back at the right side of the church. My intent was really not to listen but just to be there. I arrived almost at the end of the retreat. But this was the part that my father-in-law was preaching about Jesus Christ dying on the cross paying for my sins because I’m a sinner. I have heard this several times but this time, it was like, balls of fire being thrown straight into my heart. When he asked that we need to ask for God’s forgiveness, I was already crying asking God for forgiveness and then when he asked whoever wants to give their lives to Christ as Lord and Saviour to come up in front, I was the first one there crying committing my life to Jesus. By God’s grace, never looked back.

Let’s give an invitation to people to go to church with us. They might not say yes or might say yes only out of respect but still give that invitation. Let the Holy Spirit be the one to do the work. Our job is to point people to Christ or bring them to church to hear God’s Word or invite them to church to hear God’s Word AND LET THE HOLY SPIRIT DO HIS WORK.

Now, you know what do.

You might ask, "Pastor, who are the people I should point to Christ, bring to church to know Him or invite people to church to know Him?"

YOUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

Who are part of your sphere of influence?

John 1: 35 Again, the next day John was standing with two of his disciples. 36 Looking upon Jesus as He walked, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

1. Your followers

You might say, I have no followers. Your followers are people you have influence on. People who know that you are a Christian. Remember, we are salt and light of the world. Our workmates and the people around us...SEE US.

Application : We have been given a great platform in social media. You have followers in Facebook, Instagram or Tiktok...Point people to Christ by posting about Him there.

2. Your family

40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means the Christ). 42 Then he brought him to Jesus.

This doesn't need any explanation. When people know Christ, they will want to bring their family with them to church so that they can hear the Word of God.

Illustration : One of things I did when I came to know Christ is share the gospel to one of my close friends at work. It looked like it didn't have an effect on him. We didn't see each other for quite some time. But when we saw each other, he said that he is now going to church and brought his brother to church and then his mom and now the entire family was going to church. And then his brother got married and brought the entire family to church.

3. Your friends

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him

Philip heard Christ's Word. One of the first things he did is find Nathanael and when he found him, he told him about Christ.

You wouldn't find someone if that person is not important to you to share the good news.

Illustration : I'm sure there are a number of you here, you became a follower of Christ and it all started either a family or a friend that invited you here.

THOSE ARE OUR SPHERES OF INFLUENCE.

CONCLUSION :

Illustration : I heard this story earlier. There was a preacher named Mordecai Ham in the early 1930s. He's a tent preacher and one day he had a crusade in North Carolina. While he was there, 2 young boys both aged 14 years old, heard the preaching outside the tent about God's love. Their curiosity got piqued and wanted to go inside but saw that it was full and so they decided to walk away. But there was an usher, who run after them and brought them back and said that he can find seats for them. So after asking some people to move over, he found 2 seats for these 2 boys. Both boys gave their lives to Christ. One of the boy's name is Billy Graham who was used by God to bring millions of people to Christ. The other boy's name is Grady Wilson, who was the one responsible in organizing Graham's evangelistic crusades. But this wouldn't have been possible if the usher didn't "bring" in both boys to hear God's Word.

All we have to do is point people to Christ, bring people or invite people to church, camps or Bible studies to know Christ and when they come, they will see who our Lord Jesus Christ is...just like you when someone pointed you to Christ or brought or invited you to a place where Christ is being preached. You'll never know how God will use you to bring souls to Christ by just doing that.

S.G.D.