

Life Changing Relationship

John 1:35-51

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Making it Personal

This is where the Gospel of John turns a corner. This is where it gets personal. The first half of John chapter one was filled with the deepest of theological truths. The vision given of Jesus Christ thus far has been overwhelming in scope: Eternal Word...Creator God...Life and Light...God Incarnate...Glory, Grace and Truth...Only Begotten Son who reveals the Father—the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Wow, that's a lot of deep truth! But now, we suddenly see another side of the Gospel—the personal side. Now we see that Jesus invites ordinary people into personal relationship with Himself. He invites them to come and hang out with Him. He calls them by name. He knows them intimately, their strengths, weaknesses, failures, sins and potential. Knowing all this, He still invites them into personal relationship. This is the Jesus we have learned so much about in the first half of the chapter. We have been amazed at the mind boggling truth revealed about Him thus far. Now, we are even more amazed to see Him drawing ordinary, imperfect people into personal relationship. This is the other side of the gold coin of the gospel. On one side is truth: the deep truth of who Jesus is and what He accomplishes for us through His death and resurrection. On the other side is grace: the grace by which He comes to each of us and invites us into personal relationship. This is His Glory, filled with grace and truth (John 1:14).

Mind and Heart

What does it mean to be drawn into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Is it a matter of knowing certain truths about Jesus with the mind? Yes. Is it a matter of opening our hearts to experience Jesus' love and truth personally? Yes. To know Jesus is a matter of both heart and mind. This is what we see in our passage. There is much truth about Jesus expressed here. Look at the titles and descriptions that these men use when talking about Jesus: "the Messiah;" "The one Moses wrote about in the law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph;" "The Son of God, the King of Israel." That's a lot of information about Jesus. But we sense there is much more going on here. It's not just about information, it's about relationship. A personal relationship with Jesus Christ means personally "receiving" Him; trusting in Him (John 1:12). It is the uniting of heart and mind in faith.

Come and See

To have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the gift of God's grace to our lives. But it also requires something from us. We must answer Christ's call to follow. We must be willing to move forward into a new experience in our lives. We must be willing to be changed, transformed. This is the meaning of Christ's words to Peter: "You are called Simon (a pebble), but you will be called Cephas (a rock)." You cannot know Christ and follow Christ, and expect to remain the same. This is why these words are repeated over and over: "Come and see." The promise of the Gospel is that you are going to see amazing things. You are going to see amazing things happen in your own life. You are going to see amazing things about Jesus. But you will not see these things unless you are willing to move forward in faith with Jesus. To move forward, there are undoubtedly some things that you will have to leave behind...are you willing? To move forward, you will surely be put in uncomfortable situations that are new to you and unexpected...are you willing? To move forward with Jesus you will have to give up your own agenda and seek to follow His. Will you follow? To move forward with Jesus you will also need to learn the full truth about Jesus, who He is, what He has accomplished for you, and what it all means. Will you apply your mind as well as your heart? Will you come and see? This is what it means to trust Jesus. This is what it means to have a living relationship with Him. And always, for those who know and trust Jesus, there is so much more to see—to experience. This is a gift: grace upon

grace; grace overflowing for our lives! Let's each open our hearts today and answer Christ's invitation to this life changing relationship of grace.