

1.7.18 Sermon Pastor Jordan Text: John 1:35-51

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them,

"What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was

staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four

o'clock in the afternoon. 40 One of the two who heard John speak

and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first

found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the

Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). 42 He brought Simon to

Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John.

You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. 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 about whom Moses in the law and

also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46

Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of

Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 When Jesus

saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly

an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael asked him,

"Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you

under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49 Nathanael replied,

"Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50

Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw

you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." 51

And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven

opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon

the Son of Man."

Calling of the disciples – Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

So my first job that wasn't some sort of labor or Construction job, or working in the ministry was working at best buy. I don't know how i ended up with the job, I had no sales experience, knew no one at the store. They ended up starting me as a cashier. And they told me if I showed myself to be a good employee there was a chance that I could work my way up to working sales on the floor. I mean one of the main reasons I wanted to work there was for the benefits, and back in those days the employee cost for a lot of things was insane, but I figured sure I can do that. I'm a good worker. I can learn new things. I can get better and show that I deserve to get out there.

After a few months I did just that. Worked my way up. Became a better at sales. Got to the floor. And that was great I guess. And that is how our world works right. I'm sure you've heard hundreds of stories just like that and have probably lived a

story just like that. You start at the bottom and you work your way up. We all understand that right.

Even back in ancient Israel most things went that same way. You worked your way up, got better and better, did more and more. Do you know how Jews in Jesus day were educated, how there school system worked? For “school” you learned the Torah, the first 5 books of the bible. And Education back then was all by straight memorization. So they memorized the 5 books. And if could do that well then they got to go on to the next grade level and memorize the histories and some of the prophets, the psalms. And if they completely well, we aren’t talking fumbling their through it here, we are talking memorization and being able to pull up verses and books by heart, they got to go on to the last level which was the whole bible at that time, which was genesis through Malachi. So 39 books they memorized and could now recite. And now they get the opportunity to go and study under a rabbi. Rabbi’s never sought out students, or at least very rarely, the process for that was you had to go to the rabbi that you

wanted to train under and convince them to let you be their student. You had to be good enough. So if you wanted to be trained by a great famous Rabbi you yourself had to be something special yourself. Ok long explanation sorry and it's still not even the full expiation, but if you don't understand how this whole part of the biblical society was structured you will not get how completely revolutionary and straight up crazy this passage of John is.

So in this passage a few future disciples. We have mystery disciple, my guess would be John, but still not named; Andrew, Brother Peter, as in THE PETER, then we have Phillip and finally Nathaniel.

We know that Andrew and Peter are fisherman, Phillip as well, and as we can tell Nathaniel is ...well very full of himself apparently. "Nothing good can come from Nazareth" That's the same as if someone said to you that nothing good comes out of aitkin. Starting to feel a little more ticked off at Nathaniel?

Anyways, so we have these guys who probably graduated through the first level, well at least passed that first level of their education and decided, or were told that they should probably start finding other positions in life.

And then we have Jesus, a rabbi, a teacher, Well THE TEACHER as we know, and how does this go down. Do we see the disciples convincing him to teach them, do we see them laying out there accomplishments or resumes for Jesus to judge, do they even make the first move? No.

Jesus, the Rabbi, turns to them. Jesus the one with authority and power, asks them to come and stay with him. Another huge flip in power dynamics. Instead of Phillip even coming to him Jesus goes to Phillip. And when his perspective disciple, instead of working on impressing his future teacher, talks smack about his hometown, guess how far that would get you in an everyday conversation nowadays, Jesus goes out of his way to convince him to follow him.

You want to know how God works in our World, you want to understand how God is moving in our World, you want to see God working here in our world, you want to be a part of all of that, look at this passage.

Jesus Defies logic and comprehension. Jesus goes against the very way that society is held together. Jesus Forgives when had every reason not to and went beyond that to make that person friend and disciple. Instead of being the one waiting for or being the one waited one; he is the one that is going to, always going too. Always the one inviting in.

Last week we heard John talk about Jesus' Baptism, about the spirit in the form of a dove come down from heaven and rest upon Jesus. And this passage immediately after. First God coming to earth, the God coming to the people.

This is a continued message. This is the continued message that continues through to today. God keeps coming back to us, in fact God never leaves us. God keeps showing us grace. God marks us at our baptism that we are children and God and

nothing separate us ever again. Nothing. Nothing. Not even
dissing God's own hometown.

We are left with this radical idea and vision of God that we
see nowhere else that is reinforced nowhere else in our lives. We
have to remember this stories and all of them like it and remind
others, remind each other.