

The First Disciples

John 1:35-51

35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?"

They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?"

39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). 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 is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone). 43 The following 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, and also the prophets, wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered and said to 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, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Intro: The church was no accident or bump in the road. Because of Israel's failure to acknowledge Christ as their Messiah God turned to the Gentiles and the Church was born. God in His wisdom knew what was going to happen and why. The planning of the church was always a part of God's plan for the ages. As a member of the church of the living God we have been given a major role in the building of the church. We are to be the mouth piece for Jesus to bring the lost into the fold. God could have chosen any number of ways to reach the lost, but He chose us and gave us a command: Mark 16:15-16

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

There is no other plan, no other method, no other option; if we do not do it God will raise up someone else to do what God has called us to do.

Romans :14-15

14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

Rom 10:17

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Ps 107:2

2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,

T.S. God's plan in action

I. Called by God

And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

1. John was called by God to be the one to introduce Jesus
2. He was filled with the Holy Spirit from his conception
3. He was given the privilege of being the bridge between the law and grace
4. His ministry was to help prepare the way for the church
5. John was not about lifting himself up; it was all about Jesus
6. The Scriptures declared that when the time was right Jesus came
7. Timing is important and God has it all under control.
8. John's role was put in place by God

II. Convinced by God

The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

1. John pointed Andrew and the other disciple to Jesus
2. They listened to him and believed
3. When you meet Jesus you want to be with him.
4. Next you need to tell someone ***He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus.***
5. Nothing is said of the other disciple, no name given and no mention of his response.
6. Next he brought his brother to Jesus

III. Convinced by the Scriptures

43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me."

1. The call of God
2. Jesus found Philip indicating He (Jesus) sought him out
3. The method Jesus used with Philip was the Scriptures
4. While it is not stated it is inferred based upon Philip's answer to Nathanael

45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

5. God will provide whatever is necessary to bring about the response needed.
6. Next Philip brought Nathanael to Jesus.

Conclusion:

God is at work laying the foundation, equipping individuals for specific ministry and calling individuals to Himself. We are privileged to be included in the work of building His church and the work of the Holy Spirit which is calling individuals to Christ. The process is clear; we have a call from God, we respond to the call and then go and find someone we can introduce to Jesus.