

Epiphany 2 Sun. 14th Jan 2019 'Come and See'
1 Samuel 3:1-10 John 1:43-51

INTRO - Well known verses from John 1

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' (John 1:1)

'He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him all might believe' (Jn 1:7)

'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.' (John 1:14)

Recognise? Where from? All at start of Johns gospel just before this reading

Today's passage is the link between The Word and the miracles (water into wine comes in John 2)

From the ethereal to the actual??

From what had been written about and foretold by the prophets to the reality of Jesus living amongst them

From Jesus son of Joseph to Jesus the Son of God

So today we are going to have a look at the passage from John's gospel, mostly, and then think how this can relate to us today, what it might be saying to us.

FOUND

struck me how many times this word appears

If we read from just a few verses earlier (35) when a few men start following Jesus, then 4 or 5 times someone is found

vs 41 the first thing Andrew did was FIND his brother Simon Peter and tell him we have FOUND the Messiah

vs 43 First verse today Jesus FOUND Philip and said 'Follow me'

vs 45 Philip FOUND Nathanael and told him

Brothers, friends and Jesus are finding one another and drawing one another, encouraging one another to come and find Jesus

Many NAMES / titles

another things that struck me was the number of names / descriptions Jesus is given in these few short verses

vs 36 Lamb of God John the baptist

vs 38 & 49 Rabbi 2 disciples and then Nathanael

vs 41 Messiah Andrew

vs 45 the one Moses and the prophets spoke of Philip

vs 45 the son of Joseph Philip

vs 49 Son of God King of Israel Nathanael

We don't know to what extent Nathanael understood the reality of his words Son of God

But something had shifted in his thinking

When Philip first found Nathanael and told him about who they had found. Nathanael was sceptical

'Can anything good come from Nazareth?'

Jesus responded and Nathanael's response changed

'You are the son of God; you are the king of Israel.'

Jesus' words unblocked Nathanael's thoughts and preconceptions

HEAVEN OPENED angels ASCENDED AND DESCENDED

Does the last verse of the reading remind you of other passages of scripture?

Genesis 28 and Jacobs ladder

Jacob was on a journey and when it got dark he placed a stone down as a pillow and went to sleep
He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching heaven and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it

God then gave Jacob a great promise of blessing that would come through Jacob and his offspring

Mark 1 at Jesus baptism

Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove

Jesus promised Nathanael something great, something huge

He said that Nathanael would see great things. Greater than being recognised, than being known
He would see heaven opened and the angels of God linking heaven and earth!

Nathan was a GOOD PERSON

Jesus said of him 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit'

but Nathan had preconceived ideas of who or what might come from Nazareth!

All of the men in this story had ideas of who Jesus was

And all were invited in to His story, either by Jesus himself or one inviting another to 'Come and see!'

Nathanael accepted the invite and had an encounter with Jesus and was promised great things

SAMUEL

Let's just look briefly at the story of Samuel too

Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, ministering under Eli when the Lord called out to him Samuel Samuel

We read that Samuel did not yet know the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him

Then in verse 10 it says that the Lord came and stood there, calling as before

The difference was that Eli finally realised who was calling & pointed Samuel in the right direction

Philip had pointed Nathanael in the right direction and Eli pointed Samuel in the right direction
Samuel had to deliver a tough message to Eli and then went on to do amazing things with God
1 Sam 3:19 & 20 says

The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground.
And all Israel recognised that Samuel was attested as a prophet to the Lord

Being a good person was not enough for Samuel or Nathanael because God had more for them

Jesus had more for Nathanael and the early disciples and He has more for us

They knew and believed Moses and the prophets and the law

But that belief was not enough either, to experience all that God had for them

COME AND SEE said Philip to Nathanael

FOLLOW ME said Jesus

You will see greater things than these

Last week I was so encouraged that so many of you brought your hearts forward as a sign that you were wanting to enter in to **God's** story
When we do we are promised so much
We too will see and experience greater things
Do we believe that?