

“Come and You Will See!”—John 1:35-39

The text for this sermon, the theme of which is, “Come and You Will See!”, is John 1:35-39 → *The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to Him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are You staying?” He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day. This is the text.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

Are you a curious person? When you encounter something that sparks your curiosity, how far will you go to find out exactly what’s going on? Curiosity may simply be a part of people’s natural make-up, finding the desire to get involved hard to resist. If you hear some bit of information about somebody else are you not tempted to open up conversation with somebody so that you can get in on the “drama?” At the same time, if you encounter some information that just doesn’t seem quite right will you make efforts to delve into it so that you can find out exactly what’s going on?

Ever heard the cliché, “Curiosity killed the cat”? The concept is that being too curious may cause you to find out things that you didn’t really want to know or cause you to get hurt in the end. The challenge is that once the knowledge is there now you have to deal with it whether you like it or not. You don’t have a choice. You have to find some way to deal with how far your curiosity took you.

In our text we encounter the curiosity of some men who became disciples of Jesus Christ. However, in this particular instance curiosity didn’t “kill the cat.” Instead, it changed their lives drastically in positive and good ways. Even though they still had struggles in the midst of what they discovered, the curiosity of two of John the Baptizer’s disciples brought them to Jesus and caused their lives to take a drastic change. Their curiosity was aroused by the words of John when *he looked at Jesus as He walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”* (verse 35)

The emphasis of John was clear to these disciples when he described Jesus as *the Lamb of God*. The first time John had pointed out Jesus to his disciples he referred to Him as the One *Who takes away the sin of the world* (cf. John 1:29) as well. While the average person in our culture may have no clue what the description of Jesus as *the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world* means, John’s disciples immediately knew what he was talking about.

This description of Jesus may conjure up thoughts about the sacrifice

of a perfect lamb, without defect, whose blood was put on the door frames of the houses to save God's people from the angel of death at the first Passover when God brought them out of Egypt in 1446 BC. Maybe they thought about the lamb which Abraham offered in place of his son, whom Yahweh told him to sacrifice (cf. Genesis 22:1-14) or about the description of the LORD's suffering servant in Isaiah. There He is described as *a lamb . . . led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth* (cf. Isaiah 53:7). It's a specific reference to Jesus (cf. Acts 8:26-35). John's description is based upon these important lamb connections from their faith history which were finding their true meaning and fulfillment in the very Person & Work of Jesus Himself.

As these two disciples of John were following Jesus, He asked a very interesting question in verse 38 of our text: *What are you seeking?* Responding with the request to see where He was staying, Jesus told them, *Come and you will see.* (verse 39) Notice that they went **with Jesus** after they came **to** Jesus. So what's significant about going **with Jesus** after coming **to** Him?

Psalm 50:15 commands you to *call upon Yahweh in the day of trouble* based upon His promise: *I will deliver you.* It is important to come to Jesus for help, especially in time of need. Through faith in Jesus you can *draw near to the throne of grace . . . with confidence to receive*

mercy and find grace to help in time of need (cf. Hebrew 4:16). After receiving His help and deliverance, do you go **with** Jesus into your daily life? Or do you leave Jesus out of your daily life now that your needs are met? Psalm 50:15 addresses this dynamic. Yahweh says: *Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, **and you shall glorify Me***. Faith in the LORD will lead you to continue glorifying Him in the daily vocations of your life. The Holy Spirit gives you faith through the promise of God's written Word to bring you **to** Jesus and moves you to continue **with** Jesus in life.

Jesus' command to you is the same today: *Come and you will see*. His ministry is replete with such commands to and promises for all people. *Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*. (cf. Matthew 11:28) *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out*. (cf. John 6:37) Through such promises, backed by Jesus' perfect life, death and resurrection **for you**, the Holy Spirit desires to moves you from simple curiosity to faith, creating the desire to be with Jesus now and eternally. We are in worship here together because we need to be **with** Jesus in His Word and Sacrament. We read His Word everyday because of the desire to be **with** Jesus, to bask in His promises of grace and learn how to *observe all that He has commanded us* (cf. Matthew 28:20).

Thus, being **with** Jesus moves you to share His blessings of grace with others. For example, 2 Corinthians 1:4 talks about God comforting *us in all our affliction, **so that** we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.* You do not experience God's blessings so that you can simply "go on your merry way" feeling good. It's actually the "training ground" for discipleship and service to our neighbor. You experience God's grace so that you can share that same grace with others which brings them **to Jesus** so that they too can walk **with Jesus** in faith.

The lives John's disciples were drastically changed as they responded **by faith** to Jesus' command, *Come and **you will see***. It was promises that were based upon God's written Word in the Old Testament that sparked these disciples' curiosity in the first place. However, their curiosity was grounded in their faith as they looked for God to fulfill His age old promises.

The cliché "Curiosity killed the cat" concludes this way: "But satisfaction brought him back." After spending that day with Jesus their curiosity was truly "satisfied," so much so that one of them, Andrew, *found his own brother Simon and brought Him to Jesus* (cf. John 1:40-42). Think of how bringing Peter **to** Jesus changed his life forever. From that time onward Peter walked **with** Jesus. Going with Jesus by faith

changes the direction and purpose of our lives in the service of Him because of what we actually see. Along with these disciples we too see the Savior, the promised Messiah, the only One Who can deliver us from our slavery to the power of sin, death and the devil.

Being with Jesus will be displayed in your daily life. It will be reflected in your words and actions. They will be much different than words and actions flowing from the darkness of sin. The Holy Spirit made these disciples more bold in their witness of Christ. A commentary on their behavior by those responsible for murdering Jesus is given in Acts 4:13
→ *When they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. **And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.***

Continually being with Jesus through His means of grace (i.e. the Gospel, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession & Absolution) grants you the forgiveness of your sins, the presence of which is a continual struggle our lives. As you are continually with Jesus through His means of grace the Holy Spirit *will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that Jesus said to you* (cf. John 14:26). The Holy Spirit will give you the words to speak when you need them (cf. Matthew 10:17-20), produce His *fruit of . . . love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control* through you (cf. Galatians 5:22-23) and even help you in those weakest times to pray (cf. Romans 6:26-27).

Jesus' command and promise is for you today: *Come and you will see!* He doesn't say, "Come and you might see." Neither does He say, "Come and it may possibly work out your way." He says, *Come and you will see!* You will see His perfect life, death and resurrection for the total and complete forgiveness of your sins. You will see the need to go with Jesus and how He can use you in service to your neighbor everyday in your vocations, relationships, actions and conversations.

As Jesus comes to be with you in His Word and Sacraments you will see His impact on your everyday life and want to go with Him each day down the road of discipleship. Why? To bring others to Jesus so they can be with Jesus eternally as they see Him and trust in Him as their only Savior and Lord! Amen.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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