

## 5 Who Followed in Faith

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-5 Dan: Harvest. Time. Foundations class. Stuff the Bus.
- B. Slide6 Richie: Social Media
- C. Slide7 Pray for: My trip/Haiti/Burma. Cal/Ty LTL. Chris & Shane Asia *RescueOp* (HT).

### II. Slide8 Intro: 5 Who Followed in Faith

- A. This morning, identify with one of the characters in the story.
  - 1. They are ordinary characters (not like John the Bap last ch.).
  - 2. They are people **on a quest**, they're **looking for something**. The chances are this morning **you're** reading/listening because it's been true of you, and perhaps still is. John the Baptist suggested to Andrew and another disciple, that they give **Jesus** a closer look. **How about you...** will you do the same?
- B. Do you remember the time when **Jesus** 1st embraced you with **forgiveness**?  
Do you remember when you 1st realized Jesus **died in your place**?  
Do you remember when you 1st **came to Him by faith**?
- C. This morning we read about Jesus **calling** a few men to follow Him. **He then transformed** their lives. **Then, used** them to transform others.
  - 1. **In each case**: there is an evangelistic approach, which creates interest. **And** then a conversation with Jesus. Which leads to **a life-changing decision**.
- D. **Listen for** what it was that brought each of these 5 men **to Jesus**.

### III. Slide9a ANDREW & ANOTHER DISCIPLE (35-39)

- A. **The next day** - John's daily diary records *a 4-day period in this ch.* (note: 19,29,35,43)
- B. Slide9b John didn't name *the 2nd disciple*, most think it is John the Apostle.
- C. (38) You finally meet Messiah & what are you going to ask Him? **What a funny question!**
- D. When Andrew and John ran up behind Jesus, what did Jesus do?
  - 1. Slide9c He casually turned and said, **What do you seek?**

2. He **didn't** give them **a sales pitch** about all the things He could do for them.  
He **didn't** give them **all the benefits** of being His disciple.  
He **didn't** even ask them to **follow Him**.

- E. **Slide9d** If you had **1 question to ask God** what would it be? (some real answers on-line)
1. Why do you allow such incredible **suffering** in the world if you have the power to stop it? Did **my mother** hear me when I spoke to her as she was passing?
  2. Can I start over? Are you gonna eat that? (i would buy him lunch). What are this week's lottery numbers? How can I better serve you? Are you coming back anytime soon? What are some things that need to change in my life to be more pleasing to you and the Father? Won't you come over for dinner?
  3. His first words to them were, **What do you seek?** But they didn't tell Him, they fired back *another question*, **Rabbi, where are you staying?**
    - a) They probably addressed Him as **Rabbi** to let Jesus know that they weren't interested in just a brief conversation. They were really wanting to know more about Him & had deeper questions of life.
    - b) Are you looking for a rabbi/teacher this morning? Do you have questions that you just can't figure out on your own? Questions about life & death, good & evil, heaven and hell? Questions about purpose and direction and meaning and hope? Jesus is telling you, **Come and see**.
- F. **Slide9e** What do you seek? later Jesus says, *you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.* Jn.6:26
1. Jesus **asks** you this morning, **what do you seek?** - **Stuff, or Me?**  
**To stay out of hell, or Me? - Fire insurance, or Me?**

#### IV. **Slide10a PETER (40-42)**

- A. **Slide10b** It's been observed every time Andrew is mentioned *he's bringing someone to Jesus*
1. In 1:42 he brings his **brother Simon** to Jesus. In 6:8,9 he brought **a lad with a lunch** to Jesus, in which He miraculously fed the multitude. In 12:22 he helped direct the **seeking Greeks** to Jesus.

2. Slide10c *I will not believe that you have **tasted** of the honey of the gospel, if you can **eat** it all yourself.* C.H.Spurgeon [u may not hav all the answers...*bring them to Jesus*]

B. This soul-winner started *at home*.

- Slide10d Often, we want to get the new believer *away from* any unbelievers.
- “Get rid of your **old friends**. Your **family** probably wont understand. You need **new friends** & we’re your **new family**.”*

C. (41) We have found the **Messiah** - John is the only NT writer to use the word *messias*, transliterating the Hebrew word *mashiach* into the Greek term *christos*, or Christ.

- John is always careful to define any *Heb or Aramaic*, for his *Greek* audience.

D. Slide10e (42) Simon’s **new name** symbolized a **new beginning** in his life.

E. **Name change**. In John's Gospel not a word of explanation why, *but that's not the point*.

- I change your name, period. [just *raw-sovereign-authority*]
- I’m in charge & your new name is...
- He changes names**. (imagine Peter, *you can’t tell me what I’ll be called*)
  - Jesus gives us **all** a *new name* when we *come to Him*.
  - To everyone who is **victorious** I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.* Rev2:17
  - Maybe your **old name** was: messed up, dummy, failure, drug-y, loser, *or* drop-out.  
Maybe your **new name** is: new life, fresh start, forgiven, excused, *or* Genesis (beg.).
- And what if **all the churches** changed their name for a day to simply...*church!*  
*Not* calvary this, *or* Baptist that. *Not* 1st church of...*or* cool *hipster name* that.

F. **Petros** - Seeing beyond the rough edges.

- Peter had a lot of **rough edges**. *At times hardheaded & abrasive.*
- But* Jesus was able to see *beyond* all that. Beyond the rough edges, *to* the **precious stone** beneath. *To see beyond stubbornness, to stability.*

G. Slide11 Jesus had a jewelers eye for spotting a **diamond** in the *rough*. *Do you?*

1. Can you see the potential in others? *in your children? in your spouse? in your friends?*
- H. There are over 130 species of minerals that have been cut into gemstones, with 50 species in common use.
  1. Gemstones are first **Cut**. Then **Shaped** on the grinding wheel. Then **Polished**. Often they are **Treated**, to enhance color or clarity. Sometimes **Heated** (some Ruby's). Sometimes **Irradiated**/radiation (Blue Topaz). **Waxing/Oiling** (Natural fissures. some Emeralds/Turquoise). **Fracture Filling** (Diamonds, Emeralds, Sapphire).
- I. When **Jesus our Jeweler** sees you as a rough/raw gemstone, He also sees you as the **final product**. He pictures you: *Cut. Shaped. Polished. Treated. Heated. Irradiated. Waxed. Oiled. And depending on your past...maybe even Fracture Filled.*
  1. Sometimes just the simple recognition of **the presence of the Jewel** is all the encouragement people need to start to chipping away *at their own rough edges*, to bring that precious stone to light.
  2. Slide12 And heads up, they won't look just like **you...they're not supposed to.**
    - a) There are nearly 300 variations of diamond colors [exhibit at the Aurora display at the Natural History Museum in London]
- J. What Andrew and Simon Peter thought they were doing was *looking for the Messiah*. What they didn't realize was that *the Messiah was looking for them*.

## V. Slide13a PHILIP (43)

- A. After the 3 have a sleep-over with Jesus...Jesus initiates *going & finding & calling Philip*
- B. Slide13b Oh what a sweet and simple invitation, *Follow Me!*
- C. We have a very brief character sketch of Philip, thanks only to John's gospel.
  1. We'll see him as *scrutinizing, logical, somewhat pessimistic, & having a little difficulty stepping out in faith*, throughout this gospel.
- D. Slide13c Follow me - following Jesus is *not heroic*. No it's *desperate*.
  1. It's *not* like David's mighty men *following David*. *David you want water, we'll get you water*. No, it's more like *a domesticated sheep* following & completely reliant on its

Shepherd. *He'll protect me. He'll feed me. He'll make sure I drink from safe streams.*

## VI. Slide14a **NATHANAEL (44-51)**

A. (45) Philip shares his experience with another, *Nathanael*.

1. **We have found Him** to whom the Scriptures gave witness.

B. **Son of Joseph** - Here, Jesus is identified in the *traditional* way with His **earthly father's** name and hometown.

C. Slide14b (46) **Come and see** - *if you come, you will see*.

1. I'm light. **You come...you see. Go the other way...you'll go into darkness.**

D. Slide14c (47) **An Israelite** - as a positive term for followers of God. (see: 1:19 & 31. *Jews = unbelieving Jews. Israel = God's chosen people*)

E. Slide14d **No deceit/guile** - Hebrew word for **deceit** originally referred to *the bait used in catching fish*. A word that described when Jacob *deceived* Isaac.

F. Slide14e (47,48) Jesus knows **all of us** both **inside & outside**.

1. **Inside** - *behold, and Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit*.

2. **Outside** - *you were under the fig tree, I saw you*.

a) *Before...He saw you...(where were you when Jesus called you?) He saw you...*  
under the **tree**, on the **bed**, at the **bar**, with a **needle**, **gambling** your life away.  
*He saw you.* [could mean *I saw you even as a child*, mothers workin field, place child in shade]

b) *Before...He knew you...* your character, your very soul, who you are when you're alone. [*Jesus knows all of us both inside & out*]

G. (49) During Jesus' trial before Pilate, His **kingship** was the paramount issue, & it is still the issue today. **Who is the king of your life?**

H. (51) **Most assuredly, Truly, truly, lit. amen, amen** - The phrase emphasizes the *importance* of what Jesus is about to say.

1. **The Synoptic Gospels** use a single **amēn**. **While John** prefers the repetition of **amēn amen**.

2. **Matthew** uses amēn **31 times**. **Mark** **13 times**. and **Luke** **6 times**. **John** uses this doubled **amēn amēn** **25 times**.

- I. **Slide15** Christ alludes to **Jacob's ladder** from Gen.28:10-17. [Jacob, dream, stone pillow, ladder earth to heaven, **the Lord stood above it**, angels ascending/descending on it, new name **Bethel/ house of God**]
1. Christ reveals **the glory of heaven & opens it for us** to enter in.
- J. **Slide16** Christ is **God's ladder** between earth & heaven. (Like bridge analogy)
1. Jesus **replaces** the ladder. Jesus is **God's link** w/earth. Jesus is **the new Bethel** (God's dwelling place).
  2. He **reveals** God to men **and takes** men to God.
  3. He **opens the way** to heaven **and is the way** to heaven.
  4. 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. **There's a lady that's sure. All that glitters is gold. And she's buying a stairway to heaven. wait!**
    - a) Led Zeppelin's *Jimmy page & Robert Plant* missed it...thinking there was **a Lady buying a stairway to heaven**. **Instead** it was **a man**, a **God-man**. Who was the stairway **&** was giving out **free access** to **heaven**.
    - b) **Christ is God's stairway to heaven**. He **bridges the gap** between earth & heaven.
- K. This resembles Andrews approach to Peter (personal evangelism). **But** it's also possible that **the Word of God** played an integral part in this.
1. The Jewish Talmud encouraged sincere, searching Jews to **seek out places of solitude** where they could **pray, meditate, & study the Scriptures**.
  2. Rabbinic writings give evidence that scholars & students **often studied under shade trees**. **Perhaps** Nathanael was digging into the OT prophecies of the Messiah at the very time Jesus had seen Him.
- L. **Slide17,18 Wrap up: What raw gemstones: Andrew, the other disciple, Cephas/Peter, Philip, Nathanael**...one day to be **beautiful polished precious stones**.
1. Andrew & the other disciple were saved **through a preacher** (John the Baptist).
  2. Peter found Christ **through his brother** Andrew (personal evangelism).
  3. Philip was **called by Christ** personally (cold-contact).
  4. Nathanael found Christ **through the Word of God & Philip's testimony**.

a) God uses **different** people & **different** circumstances to bring people to His Son.

b) He is a God of *infinite variety*. Which style did **you** come to Christ with?

M. If you **haven't** come to Christ yet, note this about *Jesus' 1st disciples*:

The 1st 5 followed in Faith, though *faulted & flawed*. They were ordinary human beings. No job description was given them. **Even** Mary Magdalene though once afflicted by 7 demons **wasn't** disqualified. Jesus didn't spend a lot of time looking for *the most qualified people*. **Instead**, He chose people who were still childlike. Not afraid to leave the known comforts of this world. Even the security of their jobs, or their reasonable way of life...to follow Jesus. **Jesus still offerers you to** *Come & See - Follow Me*.