

**SEE FOR YOURSELF**

**John 1:29-42**

**I. CHANGING CHAIRS**

- A. *The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. (John 1:35-36)*
- B. Moving in a New Direction.
  - 1. When the disciples are introduced to Jesus, they are already doing something else.
  - 2. They are comfortable with their job description, their salary package, their position, and not very anxious to shift gears in mid-stream.
- C. Beginning the Journey of a Lifetime.
  - 1. Jesus is a journey toward the answer to the most important question of our lives.
  - 2. "Christianity is not an idea. It is a lifestyle. Christianity is not a destination. It is a journey. Christianity is not a product. It is a process. Christianity is not a routine. It is a relationship."

**II. WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?**

- A. *Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" (John 1:38)*
- B. The Most Important Question.
  - 1. What's important to you? What is it that will fill your life with purpose and meaning?
  - 2. What do you want to be when you grow up?
- C. The Call.
  - 1. Some times the call is loud and clear. Most of the time it is much more subtle and vague.
  - 2. "Do anything that pleases you, and belong to me." Or, "Love God, and do what you please."
  - 3. Don't complicate the call.
    - \* Sometimes we think too big – "What do you want me to do for the rest of my life?" Perhaps we should ask, "What do you want me to do with the rest of the day?"
    - \* Perhaps we are called simply to be more patient, kind and loving.

**III. THE HEART OF EVANGELISM**

- A. *He said to them, "Come and See." (John 1:39)*
- B. The Invitation.
  - 1. I've found what I have been looking for. See for yourself. Maybe it's what you're looking for.
  - 2. It happened that way for Andrew, Simon Peter and Nathaniel.
- C. God Will Meet You Where You Are!

**Prayer Concerns: Members -- Burney Biesel, Edie Ford, Angie Hamilton, Ruth Dale Hurt, Gwen Steward, Carol Webb ... Friends – Tommy Anderson, Frankie Borden, Lawrence Carolin, Emily Davis, Reggie Deloach, Molly Kate Duncan, Scott Flowers, Jean Hansford, Dolores Hearn, Jeff Joyner, Dewaine Moncier, Jr., Sheena Moore, Jimmy Patterson, Allen Voss, Todd Warren, Durward Webb, Rudy Welch ...**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, take away our sin. We have felt your mercy, but we have failed to share it. We have heard your call to service, but we continue to fall into traps of self-seeking. We know the importance of self-sacrifice, but we continue to enjoy the fruit of self-indulgence. Deliver us, Lord, from our double-mindedness.

Help us, gentle Savior, to do those things that we sometimes ignore. Help us to keep yesterday's promises and to maintain a positive attitude despite the setbacks and discouragements of life. Help us to keep on loving others even when they are not very lovable, and help them to love us. Help us to be sensitive to other's needs and to listen sincerely to each other's concerns. Help us never to neglect those who are closest to us. Most of all, help us to remain true to our values and to always place you and your kingdom first in our lives.

We ask now that you would be with those who need your presence in a special way. Our lives can be disrupted and disturbed so quickly and in so many ways. We pray for those struggling to recover from surgery or illness, for those facing difficult decisions, for those looking for answers to some of the most important questions in their lives, and for those who have yet to find you. We know that your light shines brightest in the darkness and that nothing we encounter can separate us from your love. Hear us now as we pray the prayer you taught us to pray ...

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **JOHN 1:29-42**

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked, 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 do you seek?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying; and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

### **SERMON SCHEDULE**

January 27	<i>Changing Jobs</i>	Matthew 4:12-23
February 3	<i>When Everything Changes</i>	Matthew 17:1-9
February 10	<i>That's Tempting</i>	Matthew 4:1-11