

Please be seated a minute and as you do so would you grab your Bibles, your handhelds. I want to spend some time this morning in the last 16 - 17 verses of John Chapter One and I'm going to begin by reading these verses with thoughts for us. And I pray that we all lean in to what Jesus would have to say to us today.

[00:00:44] Beginning in verse 35 the next day John was there again with two of his disciples pause just simply to indicate or to point out that it's very interesting because the two paragraphs of Verse 29 also starts with the phrase The next day. John

[00:01:05] was there he was on the other side of the Jordan River a place called Bethany where he spent time preaching baptizing. It was on the southern end of the Jordan River before it flows into the Dead Sea.

[00:01:20] We know where that spot is. And so John had been there he saw Jesus and baptized him and then verse 35 the next day.

[00:01:31] John was there again went back to the very same spot with two of his disciples John's disciples when he John the Baptist saw Jesus passing by. Very same spot that he had been the day before. He said look. The Lamb of God when the two disciples of John's heard him say this. They followed Jesus turning around Jesus saw them following and he asks What do you want. They said Rabbi Teacher Where are you staying calm.

[00:02:14] He replied and you'll see.

[00:02:18] So they went and saw where he was staying and they spent that day with Jesus. It was about 4:00 in the afternoon. ANDREW SIMON Peter's brother was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him we have found the Messiah. That is the Christ and he brought him to Jesus.

[00:02:49] Jesus looked at him and he said you are Simon son of John you will be called Sisyphus.

[00:02:58] Which when translated is Peter again. The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee 80 miles to the north where he was from Nazareth area finding Philip he Jesus said to him follow me. Philip like Andrew and Peter was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip you're starting to see a pattern here found Nathaniel Budd's friend and told him we have found the one Moses wrote about in the law and about whom the prophets also wrote Jesus of Nazareth the son of Joseph Nazareth. Anything good come out of there. Nathaniel asked come and see said Philip when Jesus saw Nathaniel approaching he said Damn.

[00:03:54] Here is truly an Israel I knew. There is no deceit. How do you know me. Nathaniel asked. Jesus answered I saw you while you were still under the fig tree

before Philip called you. Then Nathaniel declared Rabbi you are the son of God. You are the king of Israel. Jesus said you believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You

[00:04:18] will see greater things than that. Then he added Very truly truly truly I tell you. You will see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending on the son of man.

[00:04:36] What we are witnessing here this passage you may not have even kind of quite understood or caudate but really what is happening here is the birth of the church.

[00:04:51] The church is founded on this day.

[00:04:55] As we begin to see people in this case two men following Jesus spending time with Jesus listening to Jesus believing in Jesus worshipping Jesus seeing Jesus for who he really is and then going out and telling other people who Jesus is.

[00:05:22] We just witnessed the birth of the church struck by the words of a man named Frederick Dale Bruner who wrote a commentary that I've been spending a lot of time in lately as I've been studying the Gospel of John. He said this The Gospel of John in our present first chapter.

[00:05:43] We've been spending the last three weeks here begins with John's majestic prologue explaining Jesus coming cosmically verses 1 through 18. I looked up cosmic means immeasurably extended in time and space vast. That's a great way to describe John 1 1 through 18. In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God. He

[00:06:13] was with God in the beginning all things came into being by him apart from him. Nothing exists that we see it's cosmic it's immeasurably extended in time it's vast. That's where John begins with his prologue explaining Jesus cosmically.

[00:06:36] It continues.

[00:06:38] The middle section of John one that we study last week with John the Baptists inaugurating sermons as he's there in Bethanie preaching baptizing. He sees Jesus Behold the Lamb of God and he introduces Jesus. Historically he is the voice of one calling in the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord and he makes a way for Jesus to be introduced to us. And then this chapter as we've just read concludes with Jesus gathering of his first disciples and so.

[00:07:19] As Dr. Bruner says with a description of the birth of the church the church is born look back at verse 35 the next day.

[00:07:34] John was there with two of his disciples who were those two disciples. Well we know who one of them was because he is named in a few verses later and that man was Andrew brother to Simon we know as Peter who was the other he's not named specifically here.

[00:07:58] I will tell you I did a good deal of studying on this you might want to dig into it to yourself but what I found is that there is pretty general consensus with scholars that the other person was John himself. We see in John's Gospel he is reluctant in fact he refuses to refer to himself. He will at times say the disciple that Jesus loved but I believe as do most scholars and historians that these two men were John the Apostle and Andrew. They

[00:08:37] were followers of John the Baptist they were disciples of John the Baptist. What does that tell us about them that tells us they were seeking after God they believed what John had to say about the baptism or a baptism of repentance and that there was one coming after him that was greater than him that it was a special time. They believed that they were followers of John the Baptist and yet what do we see here.

[00:09:07] As John was there same place he had been the day before and he saw Jesus passing by. He said look the lamb of god. And when John and Andrew heard him say this what did they do.

[00:09:22] They followed Jesus he turned and followed him.

[00:09:27] Jesus turned round says What do you want Rabbi. Where are you staying.

[00:09:34] Pull this apart here and in a minute. There's a lot going on here.

[00:09:37] He said and you will see. So they went and saw where he was staying spent that day with him. It was about 4:00 in the afternoon. What I want to tell you is what was happening in this story and that. On that day was church church and what we are doing here today is the very same thing in essence as what happened in these verses I just read we're not going through the motions we're not putting our time in we're not checking off some celestial checklist that God is going us. OK good. Boom they checked them today although I'm not saying it's not going to be here or online.

[00:10:22] What I'm saying is that the heart and soul of what church is is finding Jesus.

[00:10:30] We are here to find Jesus.

[00:10:35] We are here to find life to celebrate and worship Christ. So let me give you a very modern very local translation of these three verses. John one 35 - 37 you're ready the next day Sunday February 11. Pastor Jody was there again up on

the platform preaching here I am gathered with him were hundreds of dedicated Christ followers as well other as well as others looking for hope. And a touch from God.

[00:11:20] A man every aspect of the service every prayer every song every scripture every word in the sermon the sharing of communion everything pointed to where to Jesus have you caught that have you been aware of the fact that in the last 35 40 minutes everything we've been doing here everything has been pointing us to Jesus.

[00:11:55] The message was unified clear passionate and strong.

[00:12:00] Look at Jesus. Look for him. He is here.

[00:12:06] And when those who are sincere about listening heard this they follow Jesus they found him and followed him as Bruner says.

[00:12:17] The moral versus 35 to 37 is this preacher return to your meeting place with Christ. Stand there with your most serious friends and wait for him to walk by again. Hey especially interested people of God. Join your Christ centered preachers and hear and obey together the one pointed to seem and experienced there.

[00:12:47] Here's the message church Jesus is here here we're told in Matthew Chapter 18. For where two or more.

[00:13:00] Two or three or more gather in his name.

[00:13:03] And we have certainly done that today. Jesus said there I am with Van and Jesus just as he did on that day turns around and he says to each and every one of us is a question for you what's that question. What do you want.

[00:13:30] I ask you what do you want. Tell you what when you read through the gospel with kind of this eye through the lens of this question over and over and over and over again as Jesus encounters people you know what he says to them.

[00:13:47] What do you want.

[00:13:49] He's there with a lame man who cannot walk who's crying out and yet Jesus will ask him what do you want.

[00:13:59] What do you want.

[00:14:01] Pastor Steve loaned me a book earlier this week. It's called You Are What You Love. By James Smith. And the very first chapter the very first words of the book start this way.

[00:14:15] What do you want. That's the question. It's the first the last and most fundamental question of Christian discipleship for all of us in the Gospel of John it is the first question Jesus poses to anyone who would follow him when two would be disciples are caught up in John the Baptist enthusiasm begin to follow Jesus. He wheels around on them and pointedly asks what what do you want. It's the question that's buried under almost every other question Jesus asks Will you come and follow me. It's another version of what do you want. Or. As Jesus speaks with Simon Peter in the last chapter of John he says Do you love me.

[00:15:06] It's the same question. What do you want.

[00:15:10] Jesus doesn't encounter Matthew or John or you or me. And he asks and asks What do you know he doesn't even ask. What do you believe. He asks What do you want. This is the most incisive piercing question Jesus can ask of us precisely because we are what we want our wants and our longings and our desires are at the core of our identity.

[00:15:39] The wellspring from which our actions and behaviors flow discipleship is more a matter of hungering and thirsting than of knowing and believing. What do you want for We Are What We Want.

[00:15:59] Hey church that's what churches it's understanding that Jesus is here that he is with us in the sanctuary over and Baker. Even if you're at home listening on line Jesus is with you right now. That's what church is all about and the essence of it is wanting to know Jesus to know where he is. I love the question that they asked Rabbi teacher Jesus. Where are you staying on the very basic level. They could be saying you know can we. Can we. What is your address or where are you going to be. Oh I think it's a lot more than that. Really if you were even drop off that word staying Rabbi teacher Jesus. Where are you. Where are you going. Where are you staying. Because wherever you are that's where I want to be.

[00:16:59] That's church that's church.

[00:17:03] It's being in the presence of Jesus. Come

[00:17:07] he replied verses Third Verse 39 Kami replied and you you'll see so they went and saw where he was staying and they spent that day with them. It was about 4:00 in the afternoon. I know it's subtle but I want to point something out that even reading it in this translation it puts it in the past tense calm he replied.

[00:17:28] So they they went. It's very interesting. Again I know I'm kind of dig in this up a little you know with a very fine tooth comb but the actual words that are used.

[00:17:41] Jesus says to them it's not said it's interesting.

[00:17:46] Says the present tense.

[00:17:49] Jesus says to them come and you will see future tense. So they came and saw where he is very interesting most translations used the word was but it's not the word was there. Was this the Greek word a Taine the Greek the Greek word. I ne is use which means is so they came and saw where he was staying. Church I'm going is going to tell you right now. This moves it into right here right now.

[00:18:26] Where is he staying.

[00:18:29] He's right here. This is happening right now today. Jesus is saying to you. Come and see.

[00:18:39] You see the very first church service happened started at four o'clock in the afternoon at an anonymous home on a weekday. This was the very first church service it was the birth of the church attended by three people Jesus Andrew and John. Now we don't know exactly what church looked like that evening. We know that Andrew and John spent time with Jesus and we also know this we know the result of what happened that night. Andrew versus 43 42 Andrew Simons Peter's brother was one of the two who heard what John had said who followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did the next day the next day was to find his brother Simon and tell him. What did Andrew say to Simon.

[00:19:35] After having church with Jesus the night before what did he say. We have found the Messiah Christ. Someone tell me what happened in church that night.

[00:19:51] Andrew believed Andrew follow Jesus.

[00:19:57] He believed in Jesus. He worshipped Jesus and he went out the next day and he began telling people about Jesus and he brought his brother to Jesus Jesus looked at him and he said you're a Simon son of John. You're going to be called Seif's which when translated is Peter or what Rocky.

[00:20:21] Are going about it on this ship. Oh no. No. Man.

[00:20:39] John the preacher told his listeners Andrew went and told his brother Simon Rockie and here down at the tail end of this passage versus 43 to 51 what happens the next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee.

[00:20:56] Finding Philip he said follow me. Philip like Andrew and Peter was from the town of Bethsaida.

[00:21:03] He follows Jesus and after Jesus spoke into his life and indicated to him all full of Nathaniel.

[00:21:14] I know you guys I've been watching. I know who you are. They say Oh you are the son of God. Here's what's going on here. The last third of John one is about people finding Jesus or more precisely it is about Jesus finding people through his people.

[00:21:36] The three great means Jesus uses in his church's earliest and continuing outreach are described right here. I love this. Jesus uses preacher evangelism to create his church. John the Baptist Jesus uses family evangelism to build his church. Andrew to Simon and Jesus uses friendship evangelism to extend his church fill up to Nathaniel. I love that but it's all church and the whole goal here really is Jesus finding people through his people church that's church Jesus finding people through his people. I tell you so that you will tell others who will tell others who will tell others.

[00:22:27] And here we are. It's what discipleship is all about.

[00:22:33] In fact I'm going to tell you our number one goal on earth is to make disciples church. But don't take it just for me.

[00:22:46] I want you to hear and in the words of the guy who caught the winning touchdown last week named Zach Hertz.

[00:22:54] He sat down with some reporters before the Super Bowl and they asked him some very interesting questions. Listen to what he said last Sunday.

[00:23:02] This here is just a story about Nafees talking about their faith in Christ. How important is it for you to use your platform to glorify God and to see our number one goal on this earth is to make disciples.

[00:23:13] That's all the job we are pretty much we want to do so. Faith in football this Sunday is used as a platform. Now we have to draw people into the world to Jesus. It's something that we don't take for granted by any means. It's obviously responsibility but we love that. We want to draw people to Christ. It was something that is going to be great for the world hopefully.

[00:23:39] But when if Jesus become real to you. WILSON Yeah.

[00:23:44] Laughs Well I mean I always say I always knew Jesus I knew who he was but I didn't have the relationship like I do now. Kind of last year I was going through some things during the season I would always be really high if I had a great game and really love loss and I had a bad game. Whereas I would see guys in the locker room like Carson Trey Burton Jordan x Darren Matthews when he was on the team that would always remain even keel. And I was pretty much envious of them so they kind of continue to push me in ways to grow on my feet.

[00:24:16] I got baptized this past offseason in California before my wedding with our pastor at the wedding. So last March is when I get to truly dedicate my life. And it was the best thing that.

[00:24:29] Yeah. From the locker room and now at home with Julie. How are you able to you both are able to grow together in Christ. I mean being the head of the household. Foundation of our marriage is built on the word. At.

[00:24:43] A time here to build some with that strong foundation. You're not going to be easily swayed. So that's kind of the same that we strive for because the distance that we have to work through is extremely difficult. I can point you in a way that. Is extremely tough. It's extremely strenuous our relationship. So being able to be rooted in the word and each other accountable is something much bigger to us and allows us to have an incredible marriage.

[00:25:09] Last one for me has been a crazy week all the way around. But have you been able to be consistent in your faith doing this.

[00:25:15] Blackies Yes I mean it I think the seeds were sold a long time ago. I was able to prepare myself for this week because I've been ignored throughout the past year on my faith. Obviously having teammates to push me each and every day is a huge reason I'm able to be accountable to them and they're able to be accountable to being too. We're never going to let each other slip.

[00:25:40] And that's why I love being on a team and being around those guys standing back. That's awesome.

[00:25:47] Amen Amen.

[00:25:50] And to put that whole interview in a word ready church church it's following Jesus it's knowing Jesus it's trusting in Jesus its being a disciple it's proclaiming Jesus telling others about Jesus it's people finding people through people.

[00:26:14] It's exactly what Zachary was doing.

[00:26:17] I loved how he talked about accountability how he talked about baptism giving his life to Jesus making his making it public building his marriage on Jesus it's church every aspect of this service today every prayer every song every scripture every word every sharing of communion everything points to Jesus. Look at Jesus look for him. Church he's here. He's here a man. Man. In.

[00:26:52] A moment.

[00:26:54] We're going to have the opportunity to receive the elements the Brad and the cop and I want you to just reach out and take it in faith.

[00:27:04] Maybe you've never done it before maybe you were raised in a tradition that you felt distance from communion or felt like you couldn't partake. I'm going to tell you right now reach out and take the bread take the cup as it comes by. Here's the one restriction. If I can use that word the one thing that Jesus said that I don't think that this is in any way earning God's favor.

[00:27:31] This is a response.

[00:27:33] It's an act of faith. It's receiving Christ it's partaking of his bread and of his blood. He didn't say you have to be perfect to come to this table.

[00:27:43] No way.

[00:27:45] We come as sinners finding Jesus and receiving him and to our hearts Jesus we thank you for this communion for this table we thank you that you are here in our midst.

[00:27:59] Lord Jesus we thank you that we can know you we thank you for Zack's testimony of finding you and that it's transformed his life that he builds his life Lord Jesus on your word and uses every opportunity he has to share who you are. Lord Jesus.

[00:28:17] It's church.

[00:28:18] Thank you for being with us today right here right now Jesus as Andrew and John just went and hung out with you that afternoon came to believe in you couldn't wait to tell others about you. Jesus that's our heart right now. We love you. It's in your name we pray.

[00:28:41] Aman.