

Things I noticed in this familiar passage...

The first thing I see is curiosity

Two men notice something about Jesus and they are curious

They may have heard about Jesus

They were likely disciples or followers of John the Baptist

They heard John say, *"Look, here is the Lamb of God!"*

They are curious to know more

So, they just followed Jesus—probably hanging back a bit to see what he was going to do

Jesus asked them, *"What are you looking for?"*

They can't answer and don't really know

Because it speaks of a deeper unanswerable question

They ask a simpler question in return, *"Where are you staying?"*

Jesus said *"Come and see"*

Not follow me

Not follow me and I will make you fishers of people

Not leave everything and spend the next 3 years with me

Not "here's the cost..."

Just *"come and see"*

They hang together for the day—obviously it was something worth hanging around for

It's a beginning

They have no answers to their questions and don't even know what questions they have

But it's enough to just be with Jesus and leave the rest of it to unfold in time

One of the two men was Andrew and he finds his brother Simon

He tells him *"We have found the Messiah"*

I'm not sure that Andrew understood the full implication of what he was saying

For one thing both Messiah and Christ mean Anointed

Common thing for the King to be Anointed

And while they were under Roman rule, they were anticipating a deliverer—a Messiah

Also, I think he simply blurts out the truth—God speaks through him—naming the Messiah

Andrew brings his brother Simon to Jesus

Jesus looks at Simon and says, *"You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas"*

(which is translated Peter)

Cephas and Peter mean rock

Jesus looked at Peter and saw the truth of him—he saw into his core—and named it

Not, just who he was in that moment, but the inner man created in God's image

Jesus saw the Peter that we see in the book of Acts

Not the impetuous and volatile one that we see in the Gospel stories

Jesus sees the man in Acts who became a leader of the early church

Jesus sees the transformed Peter—after the cross, resurrection, the Holy Spirit

Jesus sees the Peter that is filled with the Spirit and lives fully into his being

The next day, Jesus finds Philip and says, *“Follow me”*

The invitation strengthens and invites Philip to stay awhile—to follow, implying more time
It’s a growing journey

Both Andrew and Philip tell someone else—this is important and they share it with others

The good news can’t be kept to themselves

Philip also declares that Jesus is someone significant...

*“We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote,
Jesus, son of Joseph from Nazareth”*

Nathanael’s reaction is negative—who of us doesn’t respond negatively sometimes

Especially at first glance

“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Philip’s response is simple—come, see for yourself—and so they go looking for Jesus

Again Jesus sees the real Philip—sees the core of who Philip really is

“Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is not deceit!”

Philip is shocked and Jesus says he saw him sitting under a tree earlier

In that revelation, Nathanael recognizes who Jesus is

“Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

When we are truly seen, it pushes back the covering that hides us

In that pushing back of the covering, not only are we seen, but our view of others is clearer

Not only am I seen, but I’m given the ability to recognize truth in the other as well

For all of us there is an invitation to “come and see” and then “to follow”

Sometimes the invitation comes to take the next step and it unfolds very slowly

Sometimes we are seen to the core of our being and a pulling to recognize Christ’s presence

It doesn’t matter how or how fast—it is still an invitation to come and see, then follow

The other thing I love is that this “come and see” invitation is present throughout our whole lives

It isn’t just at the beginning that there is this gentle invitation to see for ourselves

But it is every day, all the time—we are constantly given the opportunity to see for ourselves

“Come and see”

“Follow me”