

Community Group Discussion

January 5, 2021

Purpose: Love one another and grow as a community of believers

Text: John 1:35-51

Theme: Knowing and Loving Jesus

Overarching thought: Loving Jesus involves knowing Jesus

*To have Faith in Christ means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you. — C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity**

1. John's ministry caught the attention of the priest and Levites. However, he it made clear he wasn't the Messiah or anyone else mentioned. As one commentator put it, John's ministry of baptism was to make the greater one (Jesus) known. John reference to Jesus as the Lamb of God led two of his disciples to begin following Jesus – one of them being Andrew (v19-36).
 - **How did John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus influence Andrew?**
 - **How important is our personal testimony and knowing Jesus matter?**
 - **John the Baptist had (and shared) a correct theological explanation of who Jesus was. How much did you know about Jesus before you started walking with Him, and who/where did you learn it?**
2. In the following verses Jesus noticed them following him and he asked them, "What are you looking for?" They said "Teacher, where are you staying?" Jesus immediately answers, "Come and you'll see." So they went with Jesus to where he was staying, and stayed with him that day (v38-39).
 - **How can we see that Andrew began to pursue Jesus?**
 - **What are ways you're pursuing Jesus to know Him better?**
3. After spending time with Jesus, Andrew went and found his brother Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" or Christ (v40-42). Once Andrew knew who Jesus was, he didn't waste any time to start sharing the news. He gained theological insight (**knowing Jesus**) which undoubtedly led to personal piety (**loving Jesus**).
 - **What is the connection between Andrew's belief and his beginning to know and becoming acquainted with Jesus?**
 - **Is it possible to love and follow Jesus without knowing him?**
 - **How does knowing Jesus more (from a theological standpoint) affect our ability to love Jesus?**
 - **What might be keeping you from seeking and knowing Jesus more?**

Reflecting on following Jesus: *This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent — Jesus Christ. (John 17:3)* "Consumer Christianity is now normative. The consumer Christian is one who utilizes the grace of God for forgiveness and the services of the church for special occasions, but does not give his or her life and innermost thoughts, feelings, and intentions over to the kingdom of the heavens. Such Christians are not inwardly transformed and not committed to it." – Dallas Willard, *Divine Conspiracy*