

EPIPHANY 2

YEAR B

1 SAMUEL 3:1-20

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

JOHN 1:43-51

JANUARY 13, 14, 2018

Come and see are words we might use when we are excited about something and want to share. Jeremiah uses those words when he is excited about something he reads in a book, sees on the internet or watches on television and he wants the rest of us to be excited too. When we are excited about things we want others to also be excited. We are often amazed about the things we see or experience for the first time. We might want others to come and see what we learned so that they might also be excited.

Come and see! These are words spoken several times in the later verses of John 1. Andrew and another disciple of John the Baptist followed Jesus. They heard John refer to Jesus as the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. They heard John and their curiosity led them to follow. When Jesus asked what the two were looking for they wanted to know where Jesus was staying. Jesus responded, "Come and see!" The next day Andrew found his brother Simon Peter and proclaimed the evangelistic message, "We have found the Messiah"

**John 1:43-45 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."**

This was the beginning of our Lord's ministry. He had been baptized by John and he was on the mission and ministry he was sent to accomplish. Andrew, the other disciple, Philip and Nathanael each had a reaction to seeing Jesus. Some went to see where Jesus was staying. Others went to share with someone else. All were somewhat curious about Jesus and

who this might be. There is always an element of curiosity with the Lord. Most of us begin our journeys of faith with curiosity. We hear a message or read a word of scripture and we want to know more. Even people that do not believe in the Lord or call themselves Christians are curious about God. There have been many movies about the life of Christ. Movies are made because Christians and people that do not claim to be Christians are curious about the life of Jesus Christ.

In our first lesson today the boy Samuel kept running to Eli because he heard a voice calling him. Three times Samuel heard the voice and ran to Eli. Eli instructed his student Samuel how to respond because it was the Lord calling the boy. Although the voice did not tell Samuel to “come and see” the voice of God caused Samuel to begin searching for the source of the voice. God had instructions for Samuel. Samuel needed to listen for the voice of God. He needed to know the voice of God in order to understand what God was saying to him.

Christianity has continued to grow and thrive because Christian people invited others to come and see. Throughout the history of the church Christian people have invited others to come and see what they have discovered. Evangelism is a word we use in the church. It is a word many of us do not like. We may not like that word because of what we think it means. The people of God must continue to invite others to come and see. If we are excited about our church we will want others to come and see our church and our church people. Congregations grow because its members reach out and invite others to come and see. It is popular to think that people come to see that dynamic preacher or to hear our choir that always does such a good job. The truth of the matter is that visitors come to church because someone invited them. Evangelism is inviting others to come and see what we have to offer. It is being excited about

what we have been blessed with. It is wanting others to also experience the blessings.

Philip went and told Nathanael about Jesus because he was found by Jesus and was excited about finding Jesus. The Lord finds you and me and we hear the word of the Lord. We might be a people that are searching. We search for a better life or we search for something we are lacking. The Lord comes into our lives as we are searching. The Lord seeks us out and calls us to follow. As we look at this reading today we see that Jesus takes the initiative. The previous day Andrew and the other disciple were curious about Jesus and Jesus invited them but on the next day Jesus calls to Philip to become a follower. Philip responds by doing what servants of the Lord do. Philip went out and found another who would also come to know Jesus.

**John 1:48 Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.”**

Our Lord is always looking for you and me. He was looking for Nathanael and saw him studying under the fig tree. Tradition tells us that Nathanael was studying the scriptures under the fig tree when Philip went to tell him about Jesus. Jesus knew his heart. He knew Nathanael's devotion to the word of God. The Lord searches for you and me. He sees where we are and he knows what we are doing. When he calls us to become followers he knows what he is doing. The Lord knows our hearts and he touches our lives. When we come closer he invites us to come and see the wonders of the Lord.

The Lord invites you today. He invites you to come and see. What will you see? You will see angels descending and ascending to the Son of Man. You will see great wonders because you come and see. You will see

people healed and demons cast out. You will see the wonders of the Lord in ways you would never expect.

Andrew, Philip and Nathanael were invited to come and see the Lord. They chose to follow. We will see in our lessons next week that other disciples were also called to this special relationship with Jesus Christ. They would also need to choose to follow. Because Philip and Nathanael chose to follow they had the assurance that they would see and do the wonders of the Lord. You also must make the choice to follow Jesus. You are invited to come and see and then to invite others to come and see. You must wear your faith and your invitation in your heart and it must be evident in your life.

Nathanael was skeptical at first but then he met Jesus. You might wonder about the things of God but now you know the Lord and you can proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God. Come and see! AMEN