

Four Who Believed

John 1.35-51

Your testimony is the most persuasive evangelistic message you have. If you really believe in Jesus, you will lead others to Christ. Whether or not a person receives Christ is their decision. By sharing *yourself* with them, you'll be bringing people to Jesus. And that is all we need to do.

- Andrew: He brought people to Jesus
 - *John declared Jesus was the Son of God; Andrew believed.*
 - *Andrew brings his brother: The hardest ones to reach*
- Peter: A new name in glory
 - *Andrew's message: "We have found the Messiah!"*
 - *Peter gets a new name, and a new identity*
- Philip: The power of Jesus Christ
 - *Jesus said "Follow Me," and Philip did*
 - *Philip knew his mission field: He brought Nathaniel...*
- Nathaniel: An honest searcher meets the Savior
 - *Philip's message fit Nathaniel's spiritual condition*
 - *Sincere doubts turn to life-changing faith*

...the Lord sees every heart and knows every plan and thought.

If you seek him, you will find him.

But if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

1 Chronicles 28.9 (NLT)

JESUS
the Son of God

1. In John 1.35-36, John the Baptist tells two of his disciples that Jesus is "the Lamb of God." This isn't the first time John said this (1.29), and he also told them Jesus was the Son of God, and would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (1.33-34)! What do you think caused these two followers of John to leave him and follow Jesus at this time? One of these men was Andrew; who do you think the other was?
2. The brief dialogue between Jesus, Andrew, and the other disciple in Jn. 1.38-39 is interesting. Jesus asks, "What are you looking for?" This implies more than just wondering if they have lost something; it was directed to deepest need. Their response seems odd: "Rabbi, where are you staying?" This wasn't a request for Jesus' address; it reflected a desire to get to know Jesus. Jesus' reply is blunt: "Come and see." Jesus encourages these seekers to examine His claims. Is there a pattern here for our witnessing for Christ?
3. In vv40-42, Andrew tells his brother Simon that they have found the Messiah, and brings him to meet Jesus. It is often noted (even by Jesus; Mk. 6.4) that witnessing to immediate family members isn't easy; many Christians know this from personal experience. What in Andrew's testimony is captivating? Can we witness that way? Why do you think Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter?
4. In vv43-44, Jesus heads north from Judea (where the Jordan River enters the Dead Sea) toward Galilee. Andrew and Peter were from Bethsaida, on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. Philip was from there, too; Jesus calls him to join them. Philip believes in Jesus, and finds his friend Nathaniel. What does he tell Nathaniel (45)? What is Nathaniel's reply? What does this tell you about Nathaniel? What is Philip's response (46)? As in v39, what does this invitation imply?
5. The encounter between Jesus and Nathaniel is beautiful (47-51). At the outset, Jesus 'sees' Nathaniel's heart (cf. 1 Sam. 16.7). What do we learn about Nathaniel from this? Jesus refers to Himself "the Son of Man" (51), a title He used more than 80x. What would His Jewish listeners understand by this (see Dan. 7.13-14)?