**January 26, 2020 John 1:29-42**

 ***In Relationship***

**Scripture:** John 1:29-42 NRSV

 (29)The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (30)This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' (31)I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." (32)And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. (33)I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' (34)And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." (35)The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, (36)and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" (37)The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. (38)When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" (39)He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. (40)One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. (41)He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). (42)He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

**Notes:**

1. Words of ***faith*** come easily, but appreciation for Christ comes through living by ***faith***.
	1. We must ***follow*** Christ for the right reasons.
	2. Jesus introduced a change in Simon’s character and ***encouragement*** to keep trying.
2. We do not need an ***invitation*** to follow Jesus.
	1. When we love Jesus, we ***share*** Him with others.
	2. ***Insecurities*** keep us from sharing about Jesus
3. Enter a real ***relationship*** with Jesus today.
	1. ***Share*** Jesus with those who are close to you.
	2. We are all called into a ***relationship*** where Jesus is Lord of our life.

**Transcript:**

How do you break the ice? Hello my name is Stevie Davis would you like to play. That is how my son Stevin did it. Stevin was a very sociable boy, and at the age of 4 or 5; very openly invited others into a relationship with himself; sometimes at the playground, maybe the play area at McDonalds or some other fast food restaurant. But it was Stevin’s way of breaking the ice, inviting a person unknown to him into a relationship, most likely another child. I do not know if any of these persons ever became friends, many he never saw again. But it was a way of breaking the ice, starting a dialog, and beginning a relationship.

How do you break the ice when you are in the presence of a total stranger? Do you just keep to yourself and stay quiet, or do you just speak to them as if you have known them forever? Do you make small talk, or do you open up and share your life story? Do you follow them closely; hoping they notice you, hoping they make the first move and speak to you? You have to have some sort of method of meeting people otherwise you would be an unknown here at the church and you would be the loner next door in your community; and nobody wants to be known as the loner next door.

Each of us has a method we use for getting to know people and creating relationships. I would guess most everybody wants to be known and be a part of the community in which we live. It is the human nature to live in community, it is our human desire to not be alone, it is a human need to be included, and for many a desire to be popular.

It was no difference in biblical times, villages and towns were developed out of this need, commerce and trade was developed to boost this desire, relationships are formed to meet our needs and desires and it is in community this is done. Today we look at John 1:29-42, And many will recognize this passage as the calling of Jesus disciples; But it is much more, it is the beginning of a relationship A relationship in which the spiritual needs of man are about to be met, a relationship which change the lives of those involved forever, a relationship that will influence our lives as well. If you have your Bibles turn with me to John 1:29-42, and stand with me as we share in the reading of our Gospel passage.

 *(29)The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (30)This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' (31)I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." (32)And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. (33)I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' (34)And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." (35)The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, (36)and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" (37)The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. (38)When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" (39)He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. (40)One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. (41)He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). (42)He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).**John 1:29-42 NRSV*

John introduces us to the men who will spend the next couple of years with Jesus. These new disciples used several names for Jesus; Lamb of God in John 1:36 NRSV (The Baptist proclaiming "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"); Rabbi in John 1:38 NRSV (after Jesus asks what they are looking for They address him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher); Messiah in John 1:41 NRSV (Andrew introduces his brother Simon to Jesus as the Messiah, which is translated as the anointed one of God.); Son of God in John 1:49 NRSV (After Jesus addresses Nathanael, he replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God!); and also in this same verse the King of Israel (Joh\_1:49).

As they got to know Jesus, their appreciation for him grew. The more time we spend getting to know Christ, the more we will understand and appreciate who he is. We may be drawn to him for his teaching, but we will come to know him as the Son of God; if we follow after Him, we may refer to him as the Lord of our life.

Although these disciples made this verbal identification of Jesus in a few days, they would not fully understand who Jesus is, until three years later (Acts 2). What they so easily professed in the beginning of their relationships, had to be worked out in experience, they had to see it to understand. We may find that our words of faith come easily, but deep appreciation for Christ comes through living by faith.

One of these two disciples was Andrew. The other was most likely John, the writer of this book. They were both disciples of John the Baptist, but after going with Jesus one time they did not return to following John. Why did these disciples leave John the Baptist to follow Jesus? Because that's what John was training them to do, Johns mission was to prepare the way for Jesus. He had prepared the way for Jesus to enter the story. He was pointing the way to Jesus; the one John had prepared them to follow. These were Jesus' first disciples, along with Simon Peter and Nathanael.

In this passage the two disciples began to follow Jesus, and that is when he asked them, "What do you want?" First let me say that Following Christ is not enough; we must follow him for the right reasons. To follow Christ for our own purposes would be asking Christ to follow us to align with us to support and advance our cause, not his. We must examine our motives for following him. And ask the question, “Are we seeking his glory or ours?”

Andrew accepted John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and went to tell his brother, Simon, about him almost immediately. There was no question in Andrew's mind that Jesus was the Messiah. When Simon is introduced to Jesus, Jesus not only saw who Simon was, but who he would become. I’ve seen a little plaque hanging somewhere that describes this “God loves you for who you are; but sees you as he would like you to be.” That is why he gave Peter a new name *Cephas* in Aramaic, and *Peter* in Greek A name thatmeans "a rock"; somebody who can be counted on do what he is asked.

Through the Gospel’s Peter is not presented as a rock-solid disciple, We find him wavering at times and at other times he is flying off the handle in outbursts; at sometimes he makes promises he is not able to keep if we look at Peter as he was before Christ’s death, we would be disappointed in him. but after the resurrection, he becomes a solid rock in the days of the early church, By giving Simon a new name, Jesus introduced a change in character, a declaration of what Jesus saw within him; and the encouragement for Peter to keep trying until he got it right.

This is all nice Pastor but what is the point of this message? What am I supposed to take away from this history lesson? Could it be that Jesus didn’t really call any disciples in this passage? Could it be that these men were drawn to Jesus; just like everybody else who followed after the Teacher? Or could it be something more?

First, those who truly know and love the Lord, do not need an invitation. We do not need an invitation to follow Jesus. Andrew and John began to follow after John identified Jesus as the Lamb of God. They were not invited to follow him initially. Jesus didn’t stop where John was standing and say, “You boys want to come along?” But they followed after Him because they truly wanted to be in his presence. They wanted to be in a relationship with him, and they did not wait to be invited or told to follow. They just left John the Baptist and followed Jesus.

But there is a difference between following and being in a relationship with Jesus. To be in a relationship requires an intimacy. A trust must be created and secrets are shared. In other words, you must learn to trust in Jesus to handle the important details of your life. You do not want to hide things from Him, you tell Him everything. in His own special way, through the work of the Holy Spirit, he tells you things in your prayer time you share with him and listen for him to talk to you.

Once we are in a relationship with Jesus, we can’t help but share with others. When there’s something new in your life, the first thing you want, is to tell others about it. Whether it’s a new car or a new friend we want others to know about it. It’s no different with a relationship with Jesus. Andrew was eager to tell his brother, but he was also eager to tell others of Jesus. We too must be eager to share about Jesus with others. How many people in your life have told about Jesus? How many have heard you talk about your relationship with Jesus? How many others know what you believe when it comes to Jesus in your life?

But what stops us from sharing with others about Jesus? I have seen many children in my life who were very open like Stevin was? Some of these children were not afraid to introduce themselves. They weren’t afraid to invite others to enter into a relationship. Their desire was to be friends and play with others. But as they got older, they began to withdraw, they weren’t as open to inviting others in They weren’t as willing to take the risk. Throughout their childhood, adolescence, teen years and even young adulthood, they experienced what many of us fear, times when he would approach somebody and they would turn away, times when they were rejected and turned away, even still the most painful, were the times when those invited would ridicule them.

Many times it is our own insecurities that keep us from sharing about Jesus. We are afraid that we will be ignored. We are afraid that what we share will not be received with appreciation. We are afraid that we will be rejected. We are afraid that we will be ridiculed.

I want to ask you a question today do you love Jesus today? If he was to walk by today and somebody announced “there goes the Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world.” Would you follow after him?

Do you love him? Jesus came to this world from his place in heaven; for you. He entered into a human body and endured what we endure, the same temptations, struggles, ridicule, and fears. he knew what hunger is, He knew what thirst is. he felt the pain of rejection and the struggle of this world. he knew the pain of the nails piercing his hands and feet, as he was being placed on the cross, where he died for our sin, not his sin, but our sin. He died so that you would have the opportunity to enter into a relationship with him. What greater love is there than this; and how can we not love Jesus for what he did for us?

Are you in a real relationship with Jesus today? Do you spend time with him every day? Do you talk to Him? Do you listen to him? Do you wait for him? Do you follow him in everything you do? Is he the #1 priority in your life? Do you make spending time with him a priority; coming to church, attending small groups, being in fellowship with the body of believers? Do you trust him to take care of the things that are going on in your life? Do you rely on him for guidance? And when he does give you the guidance you need, do you do what he tells you?

If you cannot say that you have a real relationship with Jesus today; this is the day that you can make that happen with a simple prayer. If you want a relationship with Jesus, to make him Lord of your life, repeat this prayer.

*“Father I know that I am a sinner. I know that Jesus died on the cross so that I may be forgiven of my sins. Father I ask that you would forgive me of my sins, I ask that you would enter into my life, and change me from this lost soul, into what you would have me to be. AMEN.”*

If you do love Jesus, who are you sharing Jesus with? Who in your life are you telling about Jesus? Who has heard you talk about your relationship with Jesus? Who knows what you believe when it comes to Jesus in your life? Who knows that you are a Christian?

Well it is difficult to effectively share about Jesus to total strangers. It usually works best when you share with those you are in some sort of relationship with. Somebody who is willing to listen to what you have to say. Somebody that has a similar background and experiences. Somebody who trusts you and values your opinions.

We are all called into this relationship where Jesus is Lord of our life. In this relationship, we take our direction from Him. We rely on him to meet our daily needs. We trust in Him to lead us through each day and every situation, and, have faith that He will bring good in every event that comes our way.

Today I encourage each of you to share with others; what Jesus has done in your life to bring you into relationship with Him; how he has brought you out of difficult situations, how He has protected you from devastating situations, how he has forgiven you sin, and how he has showed his love to you.