

Week 5

JESUS CALLS DISCIPLES, JESUS FIRST MIRACLE

John 1:35-36

The next day, John is careful to give us times and places because this is an accurate historical record. John the Baptist was with two of his own disciples, one of whom was Andrew and as Jesus passed them John said again, "behold the Lamb of God".

V37

Those two heard him speak and left John and followed Jesus. Remember, John the Baptist was sent to lead or direct people to Jesus and that is just what we see him doing. Friends, this is the beginning of the church. As big as it is now, it started with these two disciples of John's who are the first recorded who followed Jesus. Later John said, "He (Jesus) must increase, I must decrease" in response to the one who pointed out that all his followers were leaving and following Jesus. John had no trouble with his ego, he knew who he was and what God's plan was for him.

V40 and 41

Just think what would have happened if Andrew had not gone to get his brother, Peter. Andrew was acquainted with the scriptures, he knew a Messiah was promised and when he found Him he told his brother. Can God depend on you to call others to Him? If you have found the Messiah, have you told anyone else about Him? Notice a third testimony written here; Andrew called Jesus the Messiah.

V42

Simon Peter was called Cephas by the Corinthian church and seems to have been called Peter elsewhere. Both these words translate into the word "stone" or "piece of rock". Why did Jesus give him a new name? It seems to have a special reference to the change which grace was to work in Simon's heart. Naturally impulsive, unstable and unsteady, he was finally to become a firm, solid stone in the

church and finally suffer martyrdom. Jesus is the Rock, Peter became, by God's grace, a stone.

V48

When Nathanael thought he was alone and no was watching, Jesus, by His divine power of seeing and knowing all things, saw Nathanael. God knew Nathanael before the two ever met.

Do you realize that God knows you? God knows who we really are warts and all and yet He loves us and He wants us to follow Him.

V49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel" Nathanael knew the Scriptures, what to expect and he recognized his Messiah. The ones who had prepared their hearts and minds by studying the Word of God, were the ones who recognized Him when He came. The scoffers, including Jewish leaders had spent their time reading the commentaries and other writings. There were many ideas of what the Messiah would do when He came, which were not according to scripture. For this reason many missed their Messiah. Do you have your own ideas of what God is like and what He should be doing which are causing you to miss the truth about Him and not recognize His Presence in your life. Get your information from the bible, not from anyone else.

As we come to the end of the first chapter of the gospel of John let us look at all the names or descriptions of Jesus which we have studied; He is the Word, God, Life, Light, the True Light, the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son, the Lord, the Lamb of God, Jesus (Yeshua), A Man, the Son of God, Rabbi, Teacher, Messiah, Christ, Son of Joseph, King of Israel, the Son of Man, 21 descriptions of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Three days later the events of Chapter 2 begin. Again notice the documentation of time.

2:1-2

Jesus attended a wedding He brought with Him His five newly called disciples.

Isn't it wonderful that Jesus began His public ministry in such and a modest and gracious way? His first recorded miracle was one of kindness, a positive contribution, in a private and humble setting, no fireworks or great pronouncements. He gave what was needed, He gave it abundantly.

V5

Mary's words are very good advice for anyone, "whatever He says to you do it". Please take note that this is the last thing recorded in scripture to be said by Mary. As she was pointing others to her Son, Mary showed her respect for Jesus authority. She knew He was virgin born, was God's Son and great promises had been made about what He would do, and she knew He was able to miraculously solve this problem.

Are you ready to do what Jesus says? Do you have a sin to confess? Is there a broken relationship you need to heal? Have you failed to serve Him when He has called you? Is Christ calling you to a higher level of commitment?

V11

A key verse. What do we learn here? First of all, this was His first miracle or sign. Secondly, it happened in Cana. Thirdly, He manifested or revealed His Glory. And fourthly, His disciples believed in Him.

This miracle not only saved the newly married couple and their family embarrassment but also was for the purpose of convincing His new disciples who had followed Him to Cana but had not yet seen any evidence of His claims to be Messiah.

You may wondered why Jesus would "waste" his powers on performing a miracle of providing wine for a wedding feast. All Jesus miracles had a purpose beyond alleviating suffering; they revealed His glory. In this miracle He revealed His power over nature. Remember John's purpose in recording the miracles or signs-that you might believe.

By a mere act of will He changed water into wine, and so supplied the need of all the guests.

The manner in which the miracle was worked deserves notice; there was no outward visible action, which preceded or accompanied it. It is not said that He touched the water pots containing the water that was made into wine, nor that He commanded the water to change its qualities, or that He prayed to His Father in Heaven. He simply willed the change and it took place. We read of no prophet or apostle in the Bible who ever worked a miracle in this way. That He could do such a mighty work, in such a manner, was nothing less than God.

What was this glory of Jesus that people glimpsed in the miracles? It was as if, for a moment, the miracles drew back the curtain and allowed people to see a fuller view of Jesus, including His divine power and authority. Jesus divine nature became apparent to those willing to see. Remember John 2:14. The miracle had its intended effect, "the disciples believed".

Look through the eyes of the disciples; allow yourself to be convinced of the glory of Jesus.