

3- The Testimony of Early Disciples: John 1:35-51

As we have previously set forth those who were eye witness to events as well as participants in the events are exceptionally qualified to tell us about events. We have a total of four men we will look at in this section as we hear the testimony of the early disciples.

The events we have recorded here take place over a two day period at the beginning of Jesus ministry. They take place the day following Jesus baptism and then the following day. There are a total of five characters in these verses. One is unnamed, the others are Andrew, Simon, Philip and Nathanael.

I- Testimony of Andrew and Simon: John 1:35-42

Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; 36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! 37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

Last session we saw the testimony of John the Baptist. We see the results of his testimony bearing fruit the next day. John again affirms Christ as the Lamb of God.

It says then that “the two disciples heard him speak” and this brings up an important point in witnessing to others. The day before John had spoken these words as well but the next day the Holy Spirit of God brought them alive in the hearts of these two. We are told one of them was Andrew but the other remains unnamed and any speculation as to the identity is speculative at best. The point we need not miss is that we must keep on witnessing to the same people and not be discouraged because there may be a next day in their lives.

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye?

Jesus sees them following and asked them what they wanted. Notice their answer. *They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?*

They address him as Rabbi or Master. *Thayer’s Greek Dictionary* gives the definition of Rabbi as:

- 1) my great one, my honourable sir
- 2) Rabbi, a title used by the Jews to address their teachers (and also honour them when not addressing them)

Next they asked Him a question about where he was staying. The implication of the question is they were asking to go spend time with him. *39 He saith unto them, Come and see.*

HCSB says, *“Come and you’ll see,” He replied. So they went and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day. It was about 10 in the morning.*

The KJV says, *“They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.”*

Some say that John used Roman time to tell us of the events. Others say it was Jewish time. If it was Roman time it was 10am if Jewish it was already 4pm. Never the less we know they spent time with Jesus. What an envious thing to spend time with Him. We still can spend time, but not with him in the flesh as they did. So the testimony is firsthand experience.

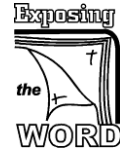
40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.



www.parisfbc.com

The Gospel of **Verifying** John the MESSIAH

© 2007 Dr. Edgar Pierce



www.exposingtheword.com

We are told in this verse that one of the two of John disciples that followed Jesus was Andrew the brother of Simon Peter. How do we know his faith was real? One evidence of anyone's faith being real is that they want other to know Jesus as well. Notice what Andrew did first.

41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. 42 And he brought him to Jesus.

He testifies to Peter his brother and what he says is really profound. Please do not lose the fact that he had only seen Jesus one time the day before and now. No witness training just passion of who He was. We have found the Messiah. Messiah is the Hebrew word equivalent to the Greek word Christ. They mean "anointed" or the "anointed one." This implies the one sent from God for the purpose of redemption. I love the way Luke referred to Jesus in the story of Simeon. **Luke 2:26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.**

I love the explanation given to us in the *Liberty Annotated Bible* concerning the anointed offices of Christ.

"In the Old Testament, men of God who were called for special service were initiated into three offices by an act of anointing. Each of these three offices finds its fulfillment in Christ. The titles *Christ* and *Messiah* literally mean "Anointed One." **Illustration:** As the *Prophet*, like Moses (Deut 18:15), Jesus declare the most complete revelation of the Father (v 18). As the faithful *Priest* (1 Sam 2:35), He offered the ultimate

sacrifice, the sacrifice of Himself (Heb 9:14). As the *King of Kings*, He is not only in ultimate control now (Ps 21:1), but will also reign a thousand years in His own kingdom (Rev 20:1-6)." (p 1607)

The application given then is that as our Prophet, Priest and King we should heed what he says, come to Him in prayer, and serve Him as King.

Notice the first thing Andrew did was bring Simon to Jesus. What a testimony to the Messiahship of Jesus.

"And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephias, which is by interpretation, A stone."

Jesus recognized Peter and instantly rename him from Simon to Cephias or Peter, (Cephias was the Syriac surname) The Greek translates it Petros or rock.

This brings up an important side note. He knows what is in all of us. Remember what is said about Jesus in **John 2:25 "And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."**

Christ saw the potential in Peter not who he was at the time. He sees the potential in all of us not what we are now but what He wants to make us.

Another point well taken is that no one knows who will be the next Simon Peter, DL Moody, Billy Graham when we bring them to the Messiah.

II- Testimony of Philip and Nathanael: *Joh 1:43-51*

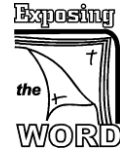
43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. 44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.



www.parisfbc.com

The Gospel of **Verifying** John the MESSIAH

© 2007 Dr. Edgar Pierce



www.exposingtheword.com

The next day after the calling of Andrew and Simon Peter coming by the witness of Andrew we see others come to Christ.

The urgency of the event is well noted by Christ getting on with the work. Matthew Henry said:

“He was called the *day following*. See how closely Christ applied himself to his business. When work is to be done for God, we must not *lose a day*.”

Christ went to find Philip and that certainly reminds us of His self stated purpose. He said He came to seek and save those that were lost. This calling of course was not their calling to be what we know as the apostles but simply to follow him. *Barnes Notes* states concerning verse 43:

This does not refer to his calling these disciples to be “apostles,” for that took place at the Sea of Tiberias Mat 4:18, but it refers to their being convinced that he was the Christ. This is the object of this evangelist, to show how and when they were convinced of this. Matthew states the time and occasion in which they were called to be “apostles;” John, the time in which they first became acquainted with Jesus, and were convinced that he was the Messiah.

45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Notice the testimony of Philip here as he witnesses to Nathanael. He said that he had found the one:

Moses wrote about in the Law: **Deuteronomy 18:15;18 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken....18 I will**

raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Remember that they had asked John the Baptist if he was that Prophet. Philip testifies to Nathanael that he had found this Prophet.

The prophets wrote about: Certainly there are a multitude of verses we could use here. Notice a couple of places.

Isa 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Philip tells him this is the one we have been waiting for, the one that prophecy had predicted.

46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?

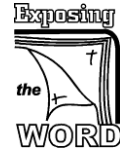
Nathanael asked if anything good come from a city that has a bad reputation. This was not questioning Christ character but only the cities. Nathanael had not yet meet Jesus.



www.parisfbc.com

The Gospel of *John* Verifying the MESSIAH

© 2007 Dr. Edgar Pierce



www.exposingtheword.com

Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

What a simple but profound answer. We do not have to convince people to believe only to come and see for themselves.

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

Jesus, remember, knows what is in everyone of us. He knew the inner character of Nathanael. He gave a glowing testimony of Nathanael. No disguise, no hypocrisy, no deception, no wickedness, no guile. This did not mean he did not need a Savior, only that he was living as good as any man could.

48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me?

This got his attention and he asked “how do you know me?”

Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

This certainly is a personal miracle for Nathanael. Jesus told him where he had been. Not only does he know our thoughts and feelings He sees our paths as well. We cannot go where God does not know. Listen to how the Psalmist said it.

Psalms 139:7-12 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there

shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

He knew him and He knows us.

49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

Many say there is a sense that Christ spoke to Nathanael in such a way that it said things not recorded. Perhaps he had been praying about Messiah’s coming, or some other thing that was understood between him and Jesus. We can only speculate. We do know however the great testimony given by Nathanael. He recognized Jesus as the Son of God and King of Israel.

50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. 51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

So the testimony of these men is clear. They recognized Jesus as Messiah, as the one spoken of by Moses and the prophets that was coming. They worshipped Him as God in the flesh.