A Fruitful Ministry

John 1:35-51

Introduction:

I. Point Others to Christ – 1:35-39

A. How They Came to the Lord – 1:35-37

1. Introduce them to Him – 1:35-36

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“Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ﻿And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!”

The animal sacrificed for sin Day of Atonement was normally a goat. But it was a Lamb on the first Passover. Also, Isaiah 53:7, Jesus is compared to a Lamb.

2. Tell Them What He has Done for Them

{v. 29 adds “Who takes away the sin of the world”} John Baptist (led by the H.S.) had in mind, the sacrificial victim Who was to die for the sins of the entire world.

3. Encourage them to spend time with Him – 1:37

“The two disciples heard him speak, and they ﻿﻿followed Jesus.”

Take them to the Scriptures for a visit with Jesus.

B. How They Continued with the Lord – 1:38-39

The public meeting is good, but not enough. There must be more private fellowship with the Lord

1. Jesus Opens the Conversation.

“Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?”

Those are Jesus’ first words in John’s Gospel. Jesus knows why they are there; He wants them to know.

“They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?”

He is the teacher. They have had John Baptist as their teacher. They want to sit with Him and learn.

2. Jesus Offers an Invitation.

“He said to them, “Come and see.”

3. They Went with Him.

“They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).” [10.00 AM-Roman time]

NOTE: The door stands open even today; even to those in a church where He is not welcome.

Speaking to an apostate church (Laodicea), He even comes to their door and knocks: “Behold, ﻿﻿I stand at the door and knock. ﻿﻿If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, ﻿﻿I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (Rev. 3:20)

II. Prepare Them To Point Others to Christ – 1:40-42

A. Andrew Sought His Brother, Simon – 1:40-41a

﻿“One of the two who heard John *speak,* and followed Him, was ﻿﻿Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon.”

B. He Taught His Brother – 1:41b

“and said to him, “We have found the ﻿﻿Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ).”

Loyal Israelites prayed daily for the Messiah to come. This is still the best news today. Messiah has come, and He calls for you. The next best news is that Messiah is coming again!

C. He Brought His Brother – 1:42

“And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of ﻿﻿Jonah. ﻿﻿You shall be called Cephas (Aramaic)” (which is translated, ﻿﻿ Πέτρος (Greek); which is translated a Stone” (English).

III. Accept Those Who Come from Other Sources – 1:43-51

A. Philip’s Summon – 1:43-44

“Jesus wanted to go back to Galilee (from Judea), and He found Philip, a Galilean from Bethsaida, that is the same city as Andrew and Peter.” Jesus said, “Follow Me.” (and he did)

 B. Philip’s Service – 1:45-51

He found someone to tell,

1. Nathaniel’s Introduction to Jesus – 1:45

Philip found ﻿﻿Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom ﻿﻿Moses in the law, and also the ﻿﻿prophets, wrote—Jesus ﻿﻿of Nazareth, the ﻿﻿son of Joseph.”

Some feel that Nathanael was,

* Moses in the Law – Deut. 18:18-19

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“I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and ﻿﻿will put My words in His mouth, ﻿﻿and He shall speak to them all that I command Him,”

* The prophets –Dan. 9:13;Micah 5:2; Zech 9:9

“Rejoice ﻿﻿greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, ﻿﻿your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey,

2. Nathaniel’s Objection to Jesus – 1:46

“And Nathanael said to him, ﻿﻿“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Nazareth had a bad reputation. Later on, they tried to throw Jesus over a cliff. (Luke 4:29)

Note how Philip answered. He didn’t argue; he simply said, “Come and see.”

3. Nathaniel’s Attraction to Jesus – 1:47-48

a. Jesus’ appraisal – 1:47

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“Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, ﻿﻿an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” (guile, KJV)

b. Nathanael’s Acceptance – 1:48a

“Nathanael said to Him, ‘How do You know me?”

c. Jesus’ Answer – 1:48b

“Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

This expression often meant to have safety and leisure; a place of meditation. Nathanael may have been meditating on the Scriptures. (Jacob and the ladder to heaven.)

4. Nathaniel’s Fascination by Jesus – 1:49-51

a. His Confession of Jesus – 1:49

“Rabbi, ﻿﻿You are the Son of God! You are ﻿﻿the King of Israel!”

Sounds like the woman at the well (John 4)

b. His Comprehension of Jesus – 1:50-51

“Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

Even a casual reading of John’s Gospel will show what Jesus meant.

“And He said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, ﻿﻿hereafter ﻿﻿you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” As Jacob saw in Gen 28:12

Conclusion: