

THE JESUS YEAR

A Vision Series



Proclaiming Christ

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John 1:40-51

Mike Gleim

John 1:40-51

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

“Church substituted a new god who was the projection of grandmotherly kindness mixed with the gentleness and winsomeness of a Jesus who hardly needed to die for our sins. Many American congregations were in effect paying their ministers to protect them from the real God. The decay of spirituality resulting from this deception can already be traced in the latter half of the nineteenth century. It is partially responsible not only for the general spiritual collapse of the church in this century but also for a great deal of apologetic weakness.”

- Richard Lovelace

Intelligibility, Invitation, & Intimacy

John 1:41-42,45

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“In all these evangelistic stories people really are doing what comes naturally; their evangelism in all three cases is not forced or from guilt, [and] supernatural is in play all along. I see no techniques of evangelism, either, nor personal manipulation, nor unreal interaction in any of these recorded meetings. I see people talking to people about very important matters, and I see excited meetings, one by one, and so slowly but surely, the Church is coming into being and growing. Her birth begins with a preacher's honest enthusiasm, it continues with family sharing, and it comes full term in a friendly, enthusiastic conversation.”

- Fredrick Dale Bruner, *A Commentary: The Gospel of John*

John 1:45-46

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“For who that beholds it is not stirred to inquire, what lies indeed within it? Who, on inquiry, does not join us...”

- Tertullian

John 1:40-45

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John 1:47-49

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John 1:50-51

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