

# Sermon on Come and See and You will never be the same again

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1/28/2007

## **Text:**

**John 1:29-51** <sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" <sup>30</sup> This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup> Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. <sup>33</sup> I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." <sup>35</sup> The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup> "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup> Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup> The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). <sup>42</sup> 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). <sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. <sup>45</sup> 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." <sup>46</sup> "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. <sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." <sup>48</sup> "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup> Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." <sup>50</sup> Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." <sup>51</sup> He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

# **1 Introduction**

## **1.1 Worcester residents invite New York Ghanaians to come to Worcester**

In the 70's and 80's the Worcester area had a lot of factories that paid very well. The Ghanaians in Worcester told their friends who lived in New York city about the benefits of living in Worcester: good pay and better living conditions. But the New York residents were usually reluctant to move and so the Worcester Ghanaians invited them to come and see how the conditions were. When they came, almost always they liked the conditions so much that they moved to Worcester. Worcester started becoming a popular destination for Ghanaians in New York because the Worcester people kept asking them to come and see for themselves.

## **1.2 Everyone checks something out before they commit to it.**

Man has a sense of doubt and curiosity and unless he sees something for himself it is hard for him to believe. No one buys a car or a house without first checking it out for himself. So it is in the story narrated by our text. There is a new rabbi on the scene but no one will buy his message until they have checked him out for themselves and so he invites them to come and see. For he knows that when they come and see they will not be the same again.

# **2 John the Baptist preaches Jesus as savior but no one buys it.**

When John was preaching and baptizing at the Jordan River, the Sanhedrin sent a delegation to ask whether he was the Christ. He responded that he was neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet but told them that he was heralding the arrival of the Christ who was in their midst. The following day during his break from preaching he saw Jesus walking by and he began to preach an evangelistic message pointing to Jesus as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” He told the people that Jesus is the one on whom the Spirit of God descended, that he is the son of God, and that he is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. This was a strong evangelistic message with a “show-and-tell” – the person of Jesus! Yet no one responded to the altar call. It seems John struck out but he didn't give up.

Sometimes you evangelize someone and he does not respond immediately but it is a seed you have planted. Don't give up for tomorrow is another day to try again.

### **3 John the Baptist preaches Jesus as savior again and nets two.**

#### **3.1 Jesus deliberately reveals himself for John's use in evangelism.**

The following day about 4:00PM John saw Jesus again walking by. I am beginning to think now, that Jesus was revealing himself to the people. This is a process of gradual revelation that brings someone to Christ. One of our brothers in Boston told me of a woman he was interested in. He saw the woman walking by all the time going somewhere. So one day he approached her and she invited him to the place she was going – church. Being so interested in the girl, she responded to the invitation and the rest is history; the Holy Spirit arrested him that day and he became saved and Holy Spirit baptized that same day!

#### **3.2 John successfully evangelizes Andrew and other disciple.**

So when John saw Jesus walking by, he changed his preaching into another evangelistic message. This time two of John's own disciples, Andrew and an unnamed disciple, responded to the message and pursued Jesus. Jesus then asked them what they were seeking. Though Jesus knew what they were looking for, he wanted them to state it. They asked Jesus where he is staying. They were looking for the house of God. Jesus told them "come and you will see" which has the connotation "come and see and you will not be the same again." In effect, Jesus told them if they are truly seeking then they should come and check him out for themselves, they should come and taste what was cooking in his house and they will not be the same again. The two disciples went with Jesus and spent time with him that day.

### **4 Andrew evangelizes Simon (Peter).**

#### **4.1 Andrew desires to share the good news of Jesus.**

That day after spending some time with Jesus, Andrew said to himself, this food is so-o good. This Word is so-o extraordinary, so-o supernatural. I can't keep it for myself. I will be selfish if I do not share it. I have to share it with family and friends.

## **4.2 You must also share the good news of Jesus and Apostolic Church.**

You Apostolic people, you know you have such delicious food you eat every Sunday. It is not only delicious but it is filling and nutritious and you are growing into spiritual giants but you have hoarded the food. You have been selfish. You seldom invite others to come and enjoy it. God has also spoken in prophecy here about this behavior. The time has come for you to begin to invite people to Sunday church. If they question you just tell them “come and see and you will not be the same again.” Tell them, “Come and taste that the Lord is good.” Tell them, “there is a fountain that is flowing here in Apostolic Church and it is full of healing for your soul, your finances, your anxiety, your marriage and every untenable situation.” Tell them “God himself is in the house.”

## **4.3 Andrew successfully evangelizes Simon (Peter).**

So, Andrew told Jesus, “Hold on, I’ll be right back. I’ve got someone who’s got to hear this message, someone who’s got to check this out, someone who’s got to come and see.” Andrew dashed and looked for his brother Simon and brought him to Jesus. When Simon got there he was in for a shock. Jesus told him “You are Simon. Your name is derived from Simeon a man who had temper and was disobedient to his father Jacob, a covenant breaker who took unjustified revenge against Dinah’s rapist but future husband. Your name cannot be Simon. Your name will now be Cephas – a rock for you will stand boldly for the gospel.” Simon was probably bewildered by what had just happened. He came to see and he was transformed and he was no longer the same person he was just a moment ago.

## **4.4 Evangelize people by asking them to come and see.**

Someone is got to tell the people out there to come and see. Be an Andrew. Look for your neighbors, co-workers, family friends, play mates, acquaintances, people you meet in the streets and in the shops. Tell them to just come and see and they will not be the same again.

## **5 Andrew evangelizes Philip.**

The next day, Andrew thought about going back home to Bethsaida in Galilee.<sup>1</sup> Then he thought again about this good news he has been exposed to and decided to share it with someone from his hometown. He found Philip and told him the good news and asked him to come and see and he will not be the same again. Philip came to check out Jesus and the Word took a hold of Philip so that when Jesus commanded him saying “follow me,” he immediately did so. Once again, we see that all you have to do is ask your family and friends to come and check out Jesus. Ask them to come and see and they will not be the same again.

## **6 Philip evangelizes Nathanael.**

### **6.1 Philip tries unsuccessfully to evangelize Nathanael.**

Philip was so-o full with the Word that it was burning like a fire in his heart, like a fire shut up in his bones. He could not hold it, he could not keep it to himself so he went looking for his friend 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.” (John 1:45) Philip continued, “come and check him out, come and see and you will not be the same again.” But Nathanael doubted. Some of the people you invite will doubt but don’t give up. Philip didn’t give up. He insisted, “Nathanael, just come and see for yourself, check him out and you will not be the same again.”

### **6.2 Nathanael states his objection to the gospel.**

Then Nathanael finally verbalized his doubt saying, “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” (John 1:46) Philip persisted on him and said, “No obligations, but do me a favor, just come and check him out, come and see and you will not be the same again.” This exchange is what gave rise to the song: “So biribi pa bi be tumi afiri Nazareth aba?”

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<sup>1</sup> In John 1:43, while the NIV and some translations say Jesus is the one who decided to go to Galilee, the Greek original uses “he” instead of Jesus as the subject of the verb translated “decide.” Jesus is, however, the subject of the verb “say” in the second half of the verse. Based on the motif of the pericope involving ordinary people inviting others it seems reasonable that Andrew is the one who invited Philip, although the NIV translation is also plausible.

### **6.3 Make the reluctant invitee state his objections and respond.**

So, Nathanael relented and came to Jesus. So also, you must not give up when your friend comes out with all kinds of excuses. When he says, “I am tired,” tell him Jesus will refresh him. When he says, “I work Sundays,” tell him to take one Sunday off. When he says, “church takes too long,” tell him the two hours will go by without noticing it. When he says, “I behave better than your church members,” tell him that is why they are in the church to heal themselves of their bad behavior.

## **7 Nathanael is transformed and worships Jesus.**

### **7.1 Nathanael comes to see Jesus and he is transformed.**

When Nathanael finally came to Jesus, Jesus called out to him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.” (John 1:47) In effect Jesus told him, “Nathanael, the righteous man – a holier than thou person who does not want to stoop low to come to a Nazarene.” Jesus diagnosed his condition, talked to him, and convicted him. Nathanael was shaken as he asked, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him that “I am the omniscient God, I know everything in the past, the present, and the future for I am the creator of the world. I saw you under the fig tree resting and meditating on your spiritual condition. You have come where the answer lies. What you lack is here. What you seek is also here.”

### **7.2 Nathanael worships Jesus.**

Nathanael was so-o overpowered by the presence of Jesus that he worshipped Jesus bowing and prostrating and proclaiming, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel. (John 1:49) and singing “Jehovah, you are the most High, Jehovah, you are the most High God!”

The one that doubts strongly is the one that succumbs completely. A man’s doubt is no match for the revelation and power of God. When the person you have been inviting continues to doubt, continue to invite him to come and see and they will never be the same again.

## **8 Conclusion**

So, go tell them in the stores to come and see.

Go tell them on the job to come and see.

Go tell them in the neighborhood to come and see.

Go tell them in the apartment to come and see.

Go tell them at Lincoln Village to come and see.

Go tell them at Anokyekrom to come and see.

Go tell them at the Kente party to come and see.

Go tell them at the engagement party to come and see.

Go tell them at the wedding party to come and see.

Go tell them at the baby shower to come and see.

Go tell them at the outdoor party to come and see.

Go tell them at the 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party to come and see.

Go tell them at the funeral party to come and see.

Go tell them in the hills and in the valleys to come and see.

Go tell them in the cities and in the suburbs to come and see.

Go tell them in the companies and in the communities to come and see.

Go tell them in the morning and in the evening to come and see.

Go tell them anywhere and anytime to come and see.

Just tell them to come and see and they will never be the same again.