

Come and See, John 1.35-51

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John 1.35-51

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" 37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" 39 "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

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40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). 42 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). 43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

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44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 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." 46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.

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47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." 48 "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." 50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." 51 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.'"

Outline

"Come and see" (John 1.39, 46) means:

- Come and think
- Come and read
- Come and follow
- Come and find together
- Come and be seen
- Come and experience

Realistic Fiction

In the introduction to his book, *The Three Gospels*, Professor Reynolds Price says the following: Modern fiction uses detail; even though it's fiction you can say something like, "He stayed till 4 o'clock." Ancient fiction (epics, legends, and myths), however, never used details: You don't read that "Oedipus sent Creon to Delphi to consult the oracle and she came out around 4 o'clock." In John 1.35 it says, "The next day..." not "Once upon a time..." Price says, "When you read this you know what's being said with signals that any reader of that day could have recognized. The technical language used whenever John the Baptist speaks, the details, are the writer's way of saying, "This is an eyewitness account, not just a legend or something I've heard or that's been embellished over the years." The way you can come and see is through the eyewitness testimonies.

Realistic Fiction

"There are only two possible views of the Gospel accounts: Either this is reporting, as close to the facts as Boswell reporting on Samuel Johnson's life, or else some unknown writer in the second century, without any know predecessors or successors, suddenly anticipated the whole technique of modern novelistic, realistic narrative fiction. If these things didn't happen the writer must have accomplished this, or else it's nothing but a fraud. The reader who doesn't see this has simply not learned how to read." – CS Lewis

conclusion

Let's "come and see" Jesus, over and over again, and let's call others to "come and see" Jesus with us!
