

“Come and see what the teddy bears did!” That invitation was heard a couple of times Friday morning. The preschool and kindergarten children brought in teddy bears for a sleepover on Thursday night and they messed up the room. Every student passing by as they came in was invited to come and see what the teddy bears did. It was something they had to see for themselves. Those teddy bears.

All sorts of conversations start, “You should’ve seen it.” That could be followed by anything. You should’ve seen the fish I caught, it was this big. You should’ve seen it, the biggest accident I’d ever seen. You should’ve seen it, the scrape was so gross with all the blood and everything. Times like these we like to let others see and share with us. “Come and see for yourself.” Yet we can’t do that with a big part of our lives, and sometimes we just don’t. Jesus is invisible. We can’t tell people to come and see him directly. We can’t see him directly.

Jesus had just been publically identified as the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. Traveling on the second day since then, Jesus detoured through non-Jewish territory. He knew it was important. It was early in his ministry but already he was revealing himself to people. So it’s in the gospel according to John we hear the call to...

**Come and see Jesus  
Revealed in the Word  
Revealed in himself**

You know how it is when you find something you’ve been looking for for a long time. That’s a great feeling. Jesus found exactly what he was looking for in Galilee. **“Finding Philip, he said to him, Follow me.”** This whole detour to Galilee, outside of Jewish territory, was all to find this individual. When he found him he called him. Philip didn’t just respond to two words from Jesus. Those two words were the very promises of Jesus. **“Follow me”** was really a call to be a full time disciple giving up everything else. It was a word of invitation to put faith and trust in Jesus. Philip was waiting for the Messiah and probably heard John the Baptist identify Jesus as the Lamb of God. So when Jesus called, Philip listened.

Certain personalities just make you want to follow. Charismatic leaders or unusual personalities lead us enough to follow. Sometimes certain leaders just ooze personality that draws us to follow. Philip went to Nathanael with none of that. Charisma and personality wouldn’t be enough to convince Nathanael to come and see Jesus. Philip had something even better, he had the Word. **“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.”** Philip knew his Old Testament. Everything had pointed to a coming Messiah, and now that Messiah was here.

One thing Philip said Nathanael picked up on, one thing that became a stumbling block to coming and seeing Jesus. **“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?”** Philip probably felt like saying, “Yeah! The best thing.” What’s your “Nazareth moment”? It could be something in the Bible. You mean God really commanded that whole nations of people be killed in the Old Testament? What kind of God is that? You mean God really doesn’t want people to live together before marriage or swear or talk behind someone’s back? Is God trying to take all our fun away? You might pick something small and miss the big picture. That something small might become your stumbling block to coming and seeing Jesus.

Philip wouldn’t give up. **“Come and see.”** Come and see what? Moses recorded in Deuteronomy, **“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.”** Nathanael was looking for one who would speak God’s words and do what God wanted done. A human being and a Jew. Jeremiah the prophet wrote, **“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.”** The Lord was sending someone from David’s line who would restore righteousness in people. A king unlike any other king. He would do right all the time for all people. Both Philip and Nathanael knew these words from Scripture, the very same Scripture you have. These words speak about the Messiah to come. They’re speaking about Jesus.

That’s how Jesus reveals himself to us. not with charisma or charm or unusual personality. But with words. Powerful words that are the very power of God working in you. Jesus calls to you, **“Follow me”** because we can’t find Jesus because in our sin we weren’t looking for him. He found us. We rejoice because the gospel and grace of God found us. The true Son of God sent by God himself revealed himself through the very words in front of you in those Bibles. Face to face you can’t see him now. But the time is right now for you to find him in the Word of God. Come and see Jesus.

I imagine Philip standing quietly behind while Nathanael approached Jesus. Philip is already convinced. He’s here for his friend. He brought Nathanael to come and see for himself. And now he’s seeing. Philip chuckles at the situation because he knows exactly what will happen. It happened to him. You only have to get close to Jesus to know, to have it revealed. Jesus calls with his gospel invitation and then grants faith to see. Jesus reveals himself.

There are people very good at reading people. They seem to know just by looking at you whether you're happy or sad. They can tell if you're being goofy or playing it straight. They seem to be able to read minds or look into our hearts. Jesus saw Nathanael coming down the road and said, **"Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false. How do you know me? Nathanael asked."** They never met before. Yet Jesus seems to be able to get inside the heart and mind of Nathanael. It didn't stop there. **"Jesus answered, I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."** Whatever Nathanael was doing under that fig tree, studying his Bible, pondering the Messiah, or praying to God, Jesus revealed he knew it. Not just that he saw him but that he knew his heart. Jesus knew Nathanael was conflicted and hoping to see the Messiah. He knew Nathanael was skeptical but came anyway. Miraculously Jesus didn't have to meet Nathanael to know him.

Nathanael was convinced. Faith mushroomed in his heart and exploded from his lips. **"Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."** Jesus smiled for what he said next. Nathanael saw Jesus for the first time. Not as a human but with eyes of faith as the Savior. Nathanael's faith would see so much more. Heaven opened, angels of God, the son of Man serving as the stairway to heaven. Jesus revealed himself by pointing to himself. He was the Savior, he was the Son of God, and he was the King of Israel. He was also the Son of Man. Jesus was the God-man, true God and true man. Jesus had revealed himself.

We can at times profess a love for Christ that only goes so deep. As soon as the winds of change blow we change our tune under the pressure put on us by friends and family. We can profess Christ at church, but at home we pretend like we don't know him. We love Christ when times are good, but when times aren't so good we forget who he really is. We profess Christ when we're inside the comfort of these walls, but outside those doors we'll say what we have to in order to get by.

Christ knows exactly who you are. He wants you to know him, so he reveals himself by pointing to himself. He's the all knowing Son of God with power for you and me. He knew every sin that needed to be paid for like when you claim to profess his name but forget him when it doesn't work in your favor. Jesus knew his sufferings and death would pay completely for those sins. Jesus revealed himself as the stairway leading to heaven perfectly when he was on the cross. There he repaired the broken relationship between God and you. He secured victory over sin and death for you and for me. And still greater things are to come. Heaven is yours yet still to come. Eternal life is yours yet still to come. Glory is yours yet still to come. Now we come and see Jesus and believe.

Come and see. You might say those things when you've made a new record on a video game, or perfected a great shot on the basketball hoop, or finished a presentation board for work. Come and see is also what I say to you this morning. Come and see Jesus revealed in his Word written down to identify and believe in the Savior. That Word breaks through doubts with power to win you to eternal life. Come and see Jesus who reveals himself in himself. He's true God and true man. He's everything we need to be saved. So come and see Jesus.