

# **“A Call To Know”**

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January 19, 2014

The gospel lesson for today is taken from the first chapter of John, verses 29 through 42. I'll be reading from the New Revised Standard Version. The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus,

who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter). This is God’s word for God’s people.

Let’s pray. Holy God, bless the reading, hearing, and understanding of your word today. Thank you for your presence—for your presence makes all the difference in our lives. Amen.

I titled this message “A Call To Know.” God calls us to know three things in the text for today—first, God calls us to know who Jesus is, then, God calls us to be in relationship with him, and then, God calls us to make disciples. So I ask you, who is Jesus? What is this call to know who Jesus is?

The passage we read from John’s gospel professes the name of Jesus as distinct from all other names. Jesus is the Son of God verse 34 declares. John the Baptist confesses the title Son of God to be a unique revelation that was made known to him as he consented to baptize Jesus. John saw the Spirit descend on him. John also declares Jesus to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and is one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. We as believers have a call to know who Jesus says he is as the Son of God.

Jesus calls each one of us to know that he is God’s Son. And that he takes away the sin we’re burdened with and by faith we come, confess, and follow. No one else in the entire world has the name that is unique to this name for only Jesus comes to save, liberate, and set-free. Some may think this God is not personal and one who is disengaged and aloof from the details and cares of our lives. But Christ, the Son of God comes to pull down and remove humanity’s reckless and self-harming ways of behavior.

He’s a Savior and a Deliverer, and we, as part of fallen humanity need a Savior to walk with us. The unique Son of God; this is who Jesus is to those he has set-free. Knowing who Jesus is is life, and it’s this life that becomes our light that

shines in our darkness. Jesus, the Son of God, who enlightens all people who receive him and become Children of God.

As believers, God then calls us to be in relationship with Jesus. This is who we know Jesus to be—he is a relational God, and he yearns and compels us to respond to his call to be in relationship. John the Baptist said two times in this passage, “I myself did not know him.” But, when he saw Jesus he knew by revelation that Jesus was the Son of God for the Holy Spirit descended on him, remained on him, and he heard a voice from heaven. Jesus is the one who says to us, “What are you looking for?” When that question comes to us, most of us don’t know the answer, but as we come, confess, and follow the Son of God, it’s revealed to us that we’re looking for relationship.

In this relationship, we’re called to follow Jesus and be his disciples. Jesus calls us, and says, “Come and see.” He says, “Come and follow me.” What kind of a relationship is this? Jesus wants it to be an intimate one. Do you remember how you felt when you fell in love? It was uncharted territory to you. You weren’t sure where it would lead, but you did know one thing, you knew that you felt really loved in this person’s presence, and that was all you needed. We’re all looking for intimacy and closeness. We’re looking for acceptance of who we are as a person, and we’re looking for affirmation. We find that when we’re in relationship with Jesus.

Now, you remember what it felt like when you fell in love, but do you remember what it felt like when you decided to make that person the sole focus of your life? No one else could get any of your attention. No one else could distract you, and all your love was lavished only on this person. That’s how Jesus wants to be with us. He desires no one else to come between you and him, and that nothing else would compete with this relationship. This relationship with Jesus can be so very intimate and compares with no other; it is unmatched.

It is so unmatched and incomparable that we have to tell others what we've found. We want others to experience what we have and to be as blessed as we feel. So we convey just how wonderful and magnificent our God is, and we do anything that's needed to make disciples of Jesus Christ. When Andrew, Simon Peter's brother saw Jesus, he went and told his brother and said "We have found the Messiah . . . and he brought Simon" to Jesus. That's how it is; we bring people to Jesus and pray for them to experience a similar revelation we have had when we met Jesus.

We have a call to know. I challenge you today to know who Jesus is, to be called into relationship with the Son of God, and to be called to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We have a call to know. Be blessed today as you grow in intimacy learning who this Son of God is and what he has called you to become. Let us pray. Redeemer and Holy One of God who has chosen us, we put our trust in you as we come, confess, and follow. Give us open ears to hear your call. Amen.