



# One Page Sermon

## By Pastor Robb McCoy

### January 2, 2022

Worship Every Sunday at 9:30 AM

#### John 1:35-51 Andrew, Simon Peter, Phillip, and Nathaniel invited to “Come and See”

The first words from Jesus in the Gospel of John are a question. Two men who are described as “disciples of John [the Baptist]” begin to follow Jesus. He turns to them and asks, “What are you looking for?”

Their enigmatic response is, “Where are you staying?” Jesus replies simply, “Come and see.”

They do, and after spending some time with Jesus, Andrew goes to find his brother Simon. Later Jesus meets Phillip, who immediately goes to get his friend Nathaniel. By the end of this passage, there are four named disciples: Andrew, his brother Simon (now named Peter), Phillip, Nathaniel. And with this, four men begin their life-changing and world-altering journey with Jesus.

(There is also one disciple who is ambiguous. Read carefully and you will see that there is one disciple of John who follows Jesus at first, but we don’t really know what happens to him. Is it possible that John’s two disciples both go to see Jesus, but only Andrew continues to follow beyond that first exchange?)

And it all started with the question, “What are you looking for?” This is a big question, big enough to stop us in our tracks if we take a moment. Especially on this first Sunday of the year. New years begin with hope and nostalgia, and it feels natural to ask a question like, “What are you looking for?”

What are you looking for in this new year? Are you looking for peace? Are you looking for a chance to make some changes? Are you looking for opportunities to grow, develop, and improve? Are you looking for a place to rest and simply exist without expectations or judgment? Are you looking for reconciliation? Are you looking for a chance to be seen, end your isolation, or emerge from obscurity?

When you come to church, what are you looking for? Are you looking to find a spiritual connection? Are you looking for fellowship with other followers of Christ? Are you looking for a Messiah to save you from sin? From depression? From sickness? From anxiety? From hopelessness? From a lack of meaning?

“What are you looking for?” Jesus asked these first



disciples, and it is unclear if both of them decided to follow him or not. Andrew though, found something real. In a moment he believed he found the Messiah, so he told his brother Simon. Later Phillip is similarly convinced by his encounter with Jesus, so he finds his friend Nathaniel.

At first skeptical that “anything good could come from Nazareth,” Nathaniel is also convinced by his encounter with Jesus.

“What are you looking for?” He asked them, and in that moment he was both the question and the answer. They were looking for something real. They were looking for something that could heal, redeem, challenge, and save. They found the Way to life, and even in these brief moments, they believed.

“Come and see,” he invited them into relationship. Their response would change their lives forever. So I ask you, dear reader, “What are you looking for?” Only you can know the answer to that question. All I can offer you is this invitation, “Come and see.” Come with Jesus on this journey. Come on this journey through the Gospel of John and see what you may find. Come on this journey with prayer and see how your life is transformed. Come on this journey with this church and see what healing, peace, reconciliation, mercy, compassion, or justice you might find.

What are you looking for? Even if you are unsure, I invite you to come and see.