

THE BOOK OF JOHN

SUNDAY NIGHTS, AT YOUR PLACE

BANQUET[®]
—FOR THE BUILDING UP & EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS—

JOHN 1:35-38

John 1:35-38 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?"

There are 2 key things I want to identify in these verses. The first one is, that one of the main purposes of leadership in God's body, is to point other followers to the Messiah. Leaders are not to lead people unto themselves but unto the Messiah, the Christ, the Lamb of God.

Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and *said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

John pointed and made his own disciples aware of who the Messiah was. John wasn't leading his disciples to himself, but to his and their Messiah and we are to be no different. John's leadership was a releasing leadership. John was more than happy with his disciples becoming Jesus' disciples, for that was the entire point to John's righteous works and it must become ours as well.

We are not to lead people to ourselves or hold them back from growing and becoming who they are called to be in Christ. Kingdom leadership will always hold others lightly and release them into being all they are to become in Christ.

Q. Why is it so important leadership leads people to Christ and the Father and not to oneself?

Q. What role does identity play in leading others to the Christ and not to oneself?

The second key in these passages is the question Jesus asks the 2 disciples, one being Andrew.

"What do you seek?"

This is the question that each person must be confronted with and ask themselves. Why is it that we are following Jesus, if indeed we are actually following and not just thinking we are.

We see later in John 6 that the crowds followed Him because of the signs He was performing on those who were sick. We then see Jesus say to them that they are not following Him any longer because of the miracles, but because He fed them fish and bread. There could be a multitude of reasons why we, and other people, have chosen to follow Jesus, but are our reasons the reason, we are to follow Him as His disciple?

God's living eternal Word teaches us that we are to seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

How many of us have actually even started here? What does it even mean to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness?

Jesus says before you seek Me for food, clothing, water and shelter, the very core essentials one needs to exist and

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live on this temporal earth, seek first My kingdom and My righteousness and I will add these things to you, for I know you need them. We are not talking about miracles for healing the sick or raising the dead, we are talking about not seeking first the absolute core essentials for human physical existence, but seeking Him and everything in Him.

How many of us are prepared to go on this journey first and fully trust in the words of Jesus Himself, when He says “all these things will be added to you”.

Q. Are we in fact a follower of Jesus or are we just caught up in forms of godliness?

Q. Why are we a follower of Jesus?

Q. What do we truly seek in following Jesus?

Jesus gives us some clear instructions of life when He said what it was to be His disciple.

Luke 14:25 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Take some time to discuss these verses.