

THE BOOK OF JOHN

SUNDAY NIGHTS, AT YOUR PLACE

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

JOHN 1:40-46

John 1:40-46 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote— Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

The key theme in these passages is discipleship. Discipleship starts with an invitation, either from a fellow brother or Christ Himself, to follow the Christ, no matter what the cost. As we looked at in the previous resource, Jesus asked the 2 disciples of John what they were seeking.

The invitation into the discipleship process of transformation is to come from other people and Jesus Himself. When one is captivated by the Messiah, one is compelled to invite others on the journey of discipleship, to come into the true knowing Him, which transforms us.

Andrew found and brought Peter to Jesus. Phillip found and brought Nathaniel to Jesus. Jesus found Phillip and told him to follow Him. We see this beautiful picture of how discipleship works.

Questions for us all to consider. Are we in the discipleship process of following Jesus? Are we in the discipleship process of finding others and asking them to come and follow Jesus? The entire purpose of discipleship is to be conformed into the image of the Son.

*Romans 8:28-31 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. **For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.***

To not be in the reality of this, is to not really be in the discipleship process. When Jesus gave His disciples the great commission to go and make disciples, this is what He is referring to. Being conformed to the image of the Son, is both an inside and outside work of the Spirit of Truth. It's not just physically following a person around and watching everything they do. It is partaking of Christ literally, eating of His flesh and drinking of His blood, and from this formation of His life within us, imitating Him through a divine demonstration of righteousness.

This is why Jesus gives Peter a new name, because with this new name, comes a new life and a new way of living.

QUESTIONS

1. What makes a personal invitation so important in the following of Jesus?
2. Why is it so important we are inviting others to follow Christ with us?
3. How can we expect our lives to be and look if we are truly in the process of Romans 8:28-31?