

Sermon Notes



Sermon: Come and See

John 1:29-42

The next day he 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 First Disciples of Jesus. 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).

Monday: Read: 1 Samuel 3

Samuel was young, living away from home and the familiar, a student/protégé. Lonely? Anxious? Bewildered? Certainly, he wasn't used to listening for the voice of God. It doesn't seem as though Samuel was intentionally ignoring the call, only that his lack of experience kept him from recognizing it when it came to him. It took Eli's wisdom—and time—to convince them both that something was at work. Eli introduced Samuel to the sound of God's voice calling, reminding us all that God's call comes when we least expect it and often to those we least expect—even us. When have you chosen to ignore instead of answering? When should you have done something but have been inactive? When should you have spoken up but have been silent?

Prayer: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. Amen.

Tuesday: Read Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-5; 4:11

Reluctant, withdrawn, stubborn. Never quite ready to go to Nineveh. All over the Bible, people are getting up and going. Abraham and Sarah move out on a promise and a prayer. Moses heads for Egypt with nothing but a shepherd's crook and Aaron to write his sermons. Elijah stands defiant, facing four hundred and fifty Baal prophets. But not Jonah. Jonah stands on the dock with tickets for Tarshish. We can relate to Jonah, can't we? We are all too willing to follow God as long as we can set the parameters, as long as God doesn't expect too much, as long as we don't have to go there or do that. Off Jonah goes to Nineveh, but he drags his feet all the way. He goes reluctantly, half-heartedly, sure of the futility of this endeavor, but God's grace and mercy have the last word. What might God be calling you to do this week? How is God inviting you to share mercy and grace? How can you say yes to God?

Prayer: Holy God, help me to get up and follow you wherever you might lead. Amen.

Wednesday: Read Matthew 19:16-22

This man comes to Jesus for a reason. He knows there's something wrong. He's kept all the commandments and yet he still experiences a certain dis-ease. So, what if this guy isn't just pious but sick, heart-sick, and somewhere deep down he knows this. What if he seeks out Jesus with his question about heavenly entrance exams because he knows that whatever his appearance on the outside, whatever his faithful and pious life, he's still missing something, something important, something that matters, something that's a matter of life and death. Maybe Jesus sees that all this guy has – his knowledge of the law, his perfect piety, his abundant wealth – has distorted his sense of himself, and of God, and of his neighbor. And so maybe Jesus tells him to divest so that he can really live by faith in God and in solidarity with neighbor for the first time in his life, which would be like having, when you think about it, treasure in heaven. What might you be missing? What might we as a church be missing? What are we willing to let go of in order to be the church God is calling us to be?

Prayer: Jesus, help us to open our hands and heart to give what we have so we might receive your abundant life. Amen.

Thursday: Read John 8:12-20

Sometimes it's hard to believe what Jesus says here because it certainly feels sometimes as though we are walking in darkness, even if we're following Jesus. We do walk through the valleys of the shadows of death – through the shadow lands. Some of us are walking in a darkness right now. But the promise of this text reminds us that we don't live in darkness. Because the Lord is our light and our salvation. Because of Jesus, we can say the words of Isaiah: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2). Where is the light of the world is dawning for you? How are your shadowlands warming and brightening with the light of Christ? How is God calling you to live more fully in the light of Christ?

Prayer: Light of the world, shine on me today. Amen.

Friday: Read Luke 24 13-32

Luke goes to great length to show that there's something different about the resurrected Christ. Something so different that the disciples on the road to Emmaus talk about Jesus all afternoon long, but fail to realize that they are speaking to Jesus, mistaking him for a stranger. Luke doesn't tell us what exactly was different about Jesus. Just that he is unrecognizable until they break bread together. There is something significant in the unrecognizable Jesus. It reminds us that Jesus can be anywhere—everywhere, in fact—so we should keep our eyes open for Jesus breaking bread in our midst, and keep our ears open for what he might be saying today. Where have you seen Jesus this week? At what point did you recognize him? What did/do you hear Jesus saying to you?

Prayer: Jesus, open our eyes we want to see you. Amen.

Saturday: Read Ephesians 1:15-19

Paul reminds us that we already have everything we need for living the Christian life. God has done the work already in and through Jesus. We don't have to wait for something else to happen before we can live joyfully and confidently. As a matter of fact, we can't put off being the people God has called us to be, waiting or hoping for some imagined future. The gift of life has been given, In Christ, we have everything we need to live in faith with God and to love and serve one another. Eugene Peterson says in The Message paraphrase Bible, "to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!" This is the promise given, what will we do with it?

Prayer: Holy One, help us to live here and now as we seek to bring your grace into this world. Amen.