Crossroads International Church Matthew Lyle

2023-08-27 Series: Believing CHRIST: Responding to John’s Gospel

**Following Jesus**

***John 1:35-51***

The real focus of these last two scenes (1:35-42, 43-51)

is not the calling of the disciples but their testimony about Jesus.

This John the Baptist pattern (testifying to Jesus’ identity and then leading others to become followers of Jesus) is repeated by Andrew, who brings his brother Simon Peter to Jesus, and by Philip, who brings Nathanael to Jesus. This is the paradigm for all followers of Jesus—bearing witness to Jesus and making disciples of others. The reader can appreciate the irony of Nathanael’s initially skeptical response to Philip—“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (1:46). Nathanael is eventually convinced to become a follower of Jesus based on Jesus’ apparently superhuman knowledge of Nathanael. Jesus’ reply to Nathanael—“Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?” (1:50)—introduces a motif that will become prominent in the fourth Gospel, the relationship between miracles (or “signs”) and faith.

Reddish, M. G. (2011). An Introduction to The Gospels. Abingdon Press.

There is only one way to heaven, “I am the way;” but there are many ways to Christ

Exell, J. S. (n.d.). The Biblical Illustrator: St. John (Vol. 1, p. 104). James Nisbet & Co.

1. Following Jesus requires obedience (35-39).

2. Following Jesus means focusing on Him, not ourselves (40).

3. Following Jesus means learning who he is (41).

4. Following Jesus means allowing God to work in our lives (42).

5. Following Jesus means telling others about Him (41 & 43-45).

6. Following Jesus means seeing how He fulfills the promises of the Old Testament (45).

7. Following Jesus means knowing him personally, not just from the testimony of others (46).

8. Following Jesus means meditating on God’s word (47-48).

9. Following Jesus means knowing he is the son of God (49).

10. Following Jesus means witnessing great things (50-51).

Although there are many ways to follow Jesus, there is only one way to heaven, and that is through Jesus.