



Come and See... Deeper Study Notes

Come and See (John 1:35-51)

To 'see' in John's gospel is to also understand.

'Follow' and 'remain' are terms relating to true discipleship.

Take some time to reflect on these questions relating to the sermon:

- Who do you need to give thanks for this week who helped or is helping you on your journey, who pointed you to Jesus and said come and see? Perhaps you can acknowledge that in some way.
- How closely are you walking with Jesus at the moment? Are there things you need to do to get back to remaining with him?
- And what are the barriers that stop you from sharing about Jesus with others? Offer them to the Lord and ask him to help you move beyond them.

Deeper Study Questions

Jesus' exchange with Nathanael (v47-51) finishes with a quote that is translated in varying forms: "Very truly I tell you" (NIV); "Truly, truly, I say to you" (ESV); "I tell you the truth" (NLT). This is an authoritative preface usually used to affirm someone else's statement. It also carries the same weight as the Old Testament preface, "Thus says the Lord". As Jesus is 'the Word of the Lord' then this highlights whatever follows *must* be important. So let's explore v51 a little more:

- Read Genesis 28:10-22. What similarities and differences do you find to v51?
- What is happening in the story around Genesis 28 that can be related to this New Testament passage?
- What does it mean to say that Jesus has made heaven and earth open to each other?
- Jesus refers to himself as 'the Son of Man'. This is another Old Testament allusion, this time to Daniel 7:13-14. Have a read of this passage and consider, combined with your brief study of Genesis, how knowing this background changes how you 'see' what John is writing. Try imagining you're as a first century Jew who doesn't know about Jesus – how would looking back at these passages in light of Jesus' words make you feel?

Each encounter Jesus has with his potential followers results in those disciples saying something about Jesus.

- What are the six claims made by the disciples about Jesus (cf John 1:36; 38; 41; 45; 49)?
- What do you think the writer of John wants us to understand?

Renaming someone in the Bible is a sign of belonging (see Genesis 32:28). Names often carry meaning too that relate to how that person is feeling or their character.

- Thinking about v42, is changing Simon's name to Peter really that big a deal (see Matthew 16:17-18)?
- What does changing your name say about your identity? What kind of conversations can you imagine opened up when people learned Simon had accepted a new name?