

R12.2 December 2023 Blog Come and See

“He said to them, ‘Come, and you will see.’ So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.”
(John 1:39)¹

“Come, and you will see.” The invitation is simply irresistible to the elect. The thrill of hearing Jesus utter these words brings shear joy to those who are being saved. What about you? Has it been a while since you considered God’s invitation or shared it with another soul? What a gift to receive, and what a gift to share!

This invitational phrase shows up elsewhere in Scripture and is worth pondering as we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas Season. But first, let’s explore the context and meaning in the passage above.

In John 1:35-51, Jesus begins His public ministry and calls His first disciples. John the Baptist has just declared who Jesus is in verse thirty-four, “I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.” The very next day, as the Baptist was walking with two of his followers and Jesus, he looked at Jesus and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” Upon hearing these words, the two disciples of John the Baptist began following Jesus. Jesus asked them, “What do you seek?” They said they wanted to know where He was staying, so Jesus answered them, “**Come, and you will see.**” One of the men was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. Andrew went to his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” and he brought him to Jesus. Jesus gave Simon a new name, Cephas, which means Peter. The next day Jesus goes to Galilee and recruits Philip with only two words: “Follow Me.” Next, 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.’” To which Nathanael said, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip’s response: “**Come and see.**” The exchange between Jesus and Nathanael is brief but truly remarkable (see John 1:47-51). Nathanael’s response to Jesus is telling: “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.” The identity of Jesus is not in doubt.

¹ All scripture references in this blog are NASB95 unless otherwise noted.

Do you see the pattern? Jesus invites the first two disciples, “Come, and you will see.” Next Andrew invites his brother, Simon (Peter). You see, Jesus calls a person through His invitation. The one who accepts His invitation invites another to “come and see,” and so on. It is a simple yet powerful approach if done in the Spirit. Easy, right? Here is the sticky part. You and I must die to self continually (daily), submit to Jesus’ Lordship, and then we must rely on the Holy Spirit to do *His* work – God provides, man can do nothing of eternal value under his own power. This reminds me of a sobering quote: “If dependence upon God is the objective, then weakness is an advantage.”² A strong reminder that we, as weak vessels, bring nothing to the table.

Now, let’s look at an invitational passage from the Old Testament:

“**Come and see** the works of God, *Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men.*” – Psalms 66:5

The 66th Psalm is a song of praise to God for His mighty deeds and for His answer to prayer. I encourage you to read and meditate on these twenty verses during your next quiet time. Recite them back to the Lord, even sing them to Him in praise. And look at this, verse sixteen includes an invitation: “**Come and hear**, all who fear God, And I will tell of what He has done for my soul.”

Application:

- Consider how you might invite others to “come and see” Jesus based on their felt needs. Dr. Michael Youssef offers practical advice on sharing the Gospel³, “You don’t have to be verbose or articulate; you don’t have to be outgoing or an extrovert; you don’t have to be a scholar. You simply have to be bold enough to invite the people in your life to come and see:
 - ‘Are you searching for the Truth? *Come and see.*’
 - ‘Are you burdened by guilt and sin? *Come and see.*’
 - ‘Is your heart aching with grief? *Come and see.*’
 - ‘Have you tried everything and found nothing satisfies? *Come and see.*’”Watch for opportunities as you engage with people. It’s been my experience that everyone is battling something. Look for that felt need and then invite them to come and see Jesus. Share what He has done in your life. Let the Spirit of God do His work. Extending the invitation is all we are responsible for.
- “**Come and see** the works of God, *Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men*” (Psalm 66:5). Make a list of “what He has done for [your] soul” (Psalms 66:26). If you have never written out your personal testimony, take time to do so, so that you may always be prepared to share your eternal hope (1 Peter 3:15).

² Attributed to Alistair Begg of *Truth For Life*

³ Excerpt from *Leading the Way’s* December 2023 issue of *My Journal*