

Bringing Friends to Church

*And the two disciples heard him speak, and **they followed Jesus**. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, **Come and see**. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour. **One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone. The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.** Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **Philip findeth Nathanael**, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.*

-John 1:37-45

In the Gospels we find our Lord is traveling from place to place *preaching* the Gospel of the kingdom, *feeding* the hungry, *healing* the sick and diseased, *comforting* who discouraged, *encouraging* those who are in distress, and **bringing light where darkness prevailed**. In this passage that we have read this morning, we see Christ *finding* Andrew and Philipp, who in turn found them going out and *finding* Simon Peter and Nathaniel.

- ★ Aren't you glad that the Lord found you?
- ★ Isn't it our responsibility to now go out and find others for HIM?

Over the past two weeks we have followers of Jesus doing just that, they follow (Matt. 4:19; 1 Pet. 2:21) Jesus in HIS good works (Acts 10:38).

Followers of Jesus are committed to reaching people for the Lord Jesus Christ!

In the same manner that Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10), we too must commit ourselves to doing the same.

Introductory Statements:

- ★ Our annual Friend Day is coming up November 7.
- ★ All of us should have a friend.
- ★ Inviting people to church and Christ should be a natural part of our Christian life.

1) Jesus gives an invitation to all.

- ★ You can never invite the wrong person.
- ★ By far the #1 reason that people come to church is because they are invited.

2) People will often have questions before they follow Jesus.

- ★ Sometimes they are legitimate.
- ★ Other times they are to get you off the subject.

3) A personal relationship is the most important influence to get people saved.

- ★ The closer you are the more trust that is earned.
- ★ You can have more influence over those whom you know.

- 4) **More often than not a person (or persons) tell us of Jesus before a friend convinces us of Jesus.**
- 5) **Jesus is interested in people before they begin following HIM.**
 - ★ He is interested in all people (red, yellow, black & white).
- 6) **We must follow Jesus before we get others to follow HIM, “One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him” (v. 40).**
 - ★ One sure sign that you are following is that you want to tell others.
- 7) **Most think first of getting a relative**

This is what is called **FRANgelism!!!**

- ★ **Friends**
- ★ **Relatives**
- ★ **Associates**
- ★ **Neighbors**

Why is this so?

- ★ They are the easiest to talk to.
- ★ You have more of a natural concern.
- ★ You have more contact with them.

A survey asked people, “WHAT INFLUENCED YOU TO CHRIST?”

- *2% *Advertisement (a thing)*
- *6% *Pastoral influence*
- *6% *Planned evangelistic outreach*
- *86% *Friend or Relative*

- 8) **Sometimes young friends influence.**
 - ★ You have something that they need.
 - ★ The first thing Jesus did on His first day should be our example.
 - ★ Who will you bring ?
 - ★ He reached out—we should reach out.
- 9) **Some people must have their questions answered before they follow Jesus, “And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?”” (John 1:46).**
- 10) **Some people want to analyze everything before they follow Jesus “Philip saith unto him, Come and see.” (v. 46).**
 - ★ Invite them to come
 - ★ “taste and see that the Lord is good”
 - ★ Don’t analyze the food- eat it!

Ask God to give you faith for Friend Day!!!