

³⁵ *The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,* ³⁶ *and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"* ³⁷ *The two disciples heard him say this, and they **followed Jesus**.*

1. Where does the invitation to follow Jesus come from? It can come from Anywhere.

- a. Marketing campaign is geared toward convincing you to follow them. They last only seconds.
- b. It can come from unexpected places.

Hurricane Charley, Category 4, in 2004

Many signs and billboards in the path of Hurricane Charley were no match for the violent storm.

However, one billboard on Sand Lake Road in Orlando resisted the hurricane's 150-mile per hour winds. While the billboard still stood, the advertisement that was there when Hurricane Charley hit was peeled back to reveal an earlier message.

When the sun rose the next morning the words on the billboard clearly read: "**We need to talk. God.**"

c. When and how do you remember first hearing Jesus' invitation to follow him?

d. In worship. Presbyterians don't do alter calls per se.

"Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and mission through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?"

I will, with God's help.

e. The invitation from/to other people. It is our job to give the invitation and hear other people's invitation.

i. Andrew brings his brother

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).

ii. Philip brings Nathanael

⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

iii. Jesus invited people to join him so he can show them something, something that he knows they’ve been looking for.

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”

2. What is he asking you to do?

*³⁸ 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?”*

*³⁹ He said to them, “**Come and see.**”*

a. Come and see.

i. Tour of Biltmore

b. Say yes.

i. What did that initial acceptance look like?

ii. Did you follow immediately or sporadically?

c. How do you say yes to this invitation today?

3. How will it affect your life?

a. Changes the direction. To follow someone, to follow Jesus, requires a person to change the direction of their lives.

When we say yes to one thing, we are also saying no to another. If we say yes to following Jesus, we are saying no to following ourselves. We are saying no to anyone who is not Jesus and anything that goes against what he taught.

If we say yes to a vanilla milkshake, we are saying no to a chocolate milkshake. Unless you are like me and say yes to both.

We cannot serve two masters.

b. ⁴⁸ *Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."* ⁴⁹ *Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"*

John 1:35–51 (NRSV)

The First Disciples of Jesus

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ 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?" ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² 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).

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, **"Follow me."** ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, **"Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"**

⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, **"I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."** ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

⁵⁰ Jesus answered, **"Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these."** ⁵¹ And he said to him, **"Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."**