

Everybody John 1:35-51

Everybody is seeking something (v. 35-39).

Everybody has somebody who needs to hear of Jesus (v. 40-45).

Everybody is somebody Jesus already knows about (v.46-48).

Everybody who follows Jesus will see great things (v. 49-51).

- Andrew saw his brother have his life changed (v. 42).
- They all saw heaven move-miracles, the transformation, the resurrection, baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- “You will do greater things” Jn. 14:12.

COMPLETE SERMON

While gathered with some friends this week, two of the kids came running announcing a snake was just outside the garage. The ladies were quick to reply that message was for the men. We responded and introduced the snake to Jesus. Some messages are targeted to specific individuals or groups, but today's message from John 1 is to challenge everybody to think of somebody to get to church on 3/16.

Read John 1:35-51

According to 2019 research (latest data), at least 4,500 churches closed their doors in the U.S; only 3,000 churches opened. The SBC lost 1,253 congregations that year. Could it be because as Thom Rainer writes, “Only 21% of active church goers invite anyone to church in a given year? Or, because only 2% of church members invite an unchurched person to church?” Or is it because only 3% of believers will ever share their faith with anyone?

I suspect that the reasons churches are closing varies, but today we are reminded of what scripture teaches about everybody.

1) Everybody is seeking something (v. 35-39).

- a. After hearing John the Baptist identify Jesus as the Lamb of God, two of John's disciples began following Jesus.
- b. John was not seeking a following. He was busy pointing others to Jesus. How many people in our world value themselves by the number of followers they have? We need to get busy pointing others to Jesus.
- c. Jesus noticed these two disciples and asked them, “What are you seeking?” Notice “what”, not “who”.
- d. They wanted to know where Jesus was staying so as to interview Him and hear His teachings. Everyone would do well to know where Jesus is and learn His teachings.
- e. Jesus said, “Come and see”. His invitation is still the same to those who are seeking eternal life. “Come and see” they did. John records specifically it was the tenth hour (4 pm). I believe, like others, that was the hour they first believed. Genuine salvation and moments of faith often leave an indelible imprint of time and place.

If you have had such an experience, I rejoice because,

2) Everybody has somebody who needs to hear of Jesus (v. 40-45)

- a. Andrew is identified as one of the two who chose to follow Jesus. Notice that he immediately went to tell his brother. When we follow Jesus, somebody needs to hear.
 - i. It indicates the decision to follow Jesus is real and meaningful (“We found the Messiah”).
 - ii. It indicates there is someone you care enough about to not see go to hell.
 - iii. It indicates obedience to the command of Christ to go and make disciples.
- b. Sharing Jesus with somebody ought to be something you intentionally do every week (everyday if given the opportunity).
- c. Start with those closest to you. Notice the term “first” in v. 41. Andrew didn’t stop with his brother Simon.
- d. Bringing others to Jesus was characteristic of his life. In Jn. 6:8-9, he brought the boy with loaves and fish. In 12:20-22, he brought some Greeks who wanted to see Jesus.
- e. Notice Philip did the same with Nathanael in v. 43-45.
- f. Everybody has somebody who needs to hear about Jesus.
- g. Before you think somebody will not respond to you, research indicates “82% of the unchurched are at least “somewhat likely” to attend church if they are invited.

Before you dismiss somebody who comes to mind in the last few moments, know this...

3) Everybody is somebody Jesus already knows about (v. 46-49)

- a. Jesus rightly described Nathanael as he approached him the very first time. “An Israelite in who was no deceit”.
- b. Nathanael questioned Philip’s report but that didn’t stop Philip from being intentional and insistent. Being genuine and without hypocrisy gives you a head start in bringing doubters to Jesus.
- c. Jesus already knew Nathanael’s whereabouts before Philip ever approached. God not only knows where somebody is or is not physically before he comes to Christ but also where somebody is or is not spiritually before he comes to Christ.
- d. If the Holy Spirit pricks your heart to witness to someone it is likely because that person needs to hear what God just laid on your heart. God knows the one He tells you to witness to better than you ever will.

4) Everybody who follows Jesus will see great things (v. 49-51).

- a. Jesus promised Nathanael he would see heavens open.

- b. When you choose to follow Jesus, you will not only experience salvation, but you will also experience the kingdom of Heaven.
- c. Andrew got to see his brother's life changed by Jesus. Think of the impact Peter had on the rest of his life. Who would you like to see experience Jesus?
- d. Nathanael got to see 37 miracles, the first of which occurred in his hometown.
- e. They saw Heaven open, miracles performed, Jesus transformed, the resurrection, & the Holy Spirit come down.
- f. They got to see Jesus – notice in our text all His names.
- g. Not only do you get to see great things, but Jesus also promised if we believe in Him, we will do greater things (Jn. 14:12).

On March 16th, the message and service will focus on John 3:16. In preparation, consider taking one of these actions today:

Take Away/Response/Invitation

- 1) Commit your life to Jesus – genuinely and without hypocrisy.
- 2) Write names in your Bible and start praying – Nathanael's name always followed Philip's in the list of disciples. Whose will follow yours?
- 3) Enlist in door-to-door evangelism.
- 4) Contact someone today – tell them it was an assignment from your pastor, and you are asking they be your guest on 3/16. Offer to treat them to lunch.

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