

## 5. COME AND SEE (JOHN 1:35-42) 02/05/12

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ATCHISON, PASTOR LEE HENDON

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SO IN LOVE THAT YOUR BELOVED CAPTURED & COMMANDED YOUR WHOLE BEING? YOU KNOW, MADE YOUR HEART FLUTTER WHEN THEY WERE NEAR & YOUR FACE TO LIGHT UP WITH THEIR SMILE. YOU COULD NOT EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE WHAT LIFE WOULD BE LIKE WITHOUT YOUR BELOVED. THAT IS THE APOSTLE JOHN WITH JESUS - THAT IS OUR OWN CALL TO "COME & SEE." FALL IN LOVE WITH JESUS....

"COME & SEE" IS THE COMMAND GIVEN BY JESUS TO DROP EVERYTHING YOU ARE DOING TO FIND TRUE MEANING & PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE IN HIM. IT IS A VERY PERSONAL & INDIVIDUAL INVITATION BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE CAN EVER DO IT FOR YOU - NOT YOUR MOMMA, NOT YOUR POPPA, NOT YOUR BEST FRIEND - ONLY YOU. YOU CAN NEVER, EVER BORROW ON SOMEONE ELSE'S TIME WITH JESUS - YOU MUST MAKE THE JOURNEY YOURSELF.

JESUS CALL US TO ATTENTION WITH, "WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?" SOME PEOPLE DRIFT THRU LIFE WITHOUT EVER BEING ADDRESSED BY THAT CHALLENGE, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? THE YOUTH MIGHT BE CAPTURED BY A HOT NEW SET OF WHEELS - OR A DREAMY BOY OR GIRL FRIEND. OR HOW ABOUT MAKING THE FOOTBALL TEAM OR CHEER LEADING SQUAD? HOW ABOUT AN A+ IN YOUR MOST DIFFICULT CLASS? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? THE YOUNG ADULT MAY BE SEEKING A NEW CAREER & THE PROMISE OF SUCCESS & POWER THAT MONEY & POSITION COULD BRING. UPWARD MOBILITY IS A KEY DESIRE FOR MANY. PERHAPS MANY ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT OF DEBT? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? THE ELDERLY MIGHT LONG FOR A DAY WITHOUT PAIN OR THE SECURITY OF INVESTMENTS & RETIREMENT INCOME. SOME MIGHT EVEN BE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO GIVE THEM NEW DREAMS TO SAVE THEM FROM THE BOREDOM & HUM-DRUM OF LIFE'S END? SURELY THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN COUNTING PILLS & KEEPING DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENTS? ALL OF THESE ARE IMPORTANT BUT THEY ARE TO AIM LOW IN LIFE. JESUS IS MORE CHALLENGING & COMMANDING FOR EVERY STAGE & AGE IN LIFE. HE IS NOT CLOSE TO AS BORING AS WE MAKE HIM! COME & SEE!

FIRST COME & SEE "THE LAMB OF GOD." WE DO NOT TALK LIKE THAT NOW DAYS - "LAMB OF GOD." THAT IS REALLY THICK & SYRUPY CHURCH TALK. INSIDER INFORMATION ONLY CHURCHY PEOPLE WOULD UNDERSTAND. THIS TITLE FOR JESUS WAS ONE NO ONE WOULD EVER SEEK. IT ALLUDED TO THE JEWISH PASSOVER LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN & ITS BLOOD SPLASHED ON THEIR DOOR JAMS SO THE ANGEL OF DEATH WOULD SPARE THEIR FIRST BORN SONS. THE LAMB OF GOD PAID THE PRICE THAT LEAD THE JEWS FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM.

THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE BOUND & TERRORIZED BY SLAVERY TODAY - WE HAVE DIFFERENT SLAVE MASTERS - DRUGS, ALCOHOL, SEX, ABUSIVE SPOUSES & PARENTS, MOUNDS OF DEBT & OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDERS BY THE LEGIONS, FEARS & NEUROSES THAT PARALYZE & CONTROL. WE ARE NOT AS FREE AS A FREED PEOPLE COULD/MIGHT HOPE TO BE. JESUS AS THE LAMB OF GOD COMES TO REDEEM, SET FREE, GIVE STRENGTH, POWER & HOPE TO ALL - IT BEGINS WITH "COME & SEE." LAY ASIDE ALL THAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK TO SPEND A TIME, A MOMENT, OR A LIFETIME WITH JESUS.

THOSE FIRST DISCIPLES WERE A LOT LIKE US. CALLED DISCIPLES BECAUSE THEY WERE SIMPLY FOLLOWING OR TAGGING ALONG WITH JESUS - JOHN THE BAPTIST POINTED THEM IN THAT DIRECTION - PERHAPS LIKE YOUR PARENTS OR FAMILY HAVE DONE FOR YOU. IT IS TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER, "COME & SEE" FOR YOURSELVES WHAT JESUS HAS FOR YOU. WE MAY BE EMBARRAS-SED ABOUT THE CHURCH & OURSELVES AS FOLLOWERS BUT WE ARE NEVER EMBARRASSED ABOUT JESUS. APOLOGIZE FOR OUR OWN ACTIONS, PERHAPS, BUT WE NEVER APOLOGIZE FOR JESUS. WE WOULD BE LEAPS AHEAD IN LIFE & AS A CHURCH TO JUST GET OUT OF HIS WAY TO LET JESUS BE JESUS. "COME & SEE." VINTAGE, UNADULTERATED JESUS CURES ALL - BORES NO ONE.

JESUS IS THE RABBI - THE TEACHER, THE MESSIAH - THE SAVIOR WE HAVE ALL LONGED FOR BUT WERE PERHAPS BLINDED BY THE CHURCH & ITS TRADITIONS FROM SEEING - FINDING - DISCOVERING. GO TO WHERE JESUS IS STAYING - SPEND A LITTLE TIME - OR A LIFE TIME WITH JESUS. WHEN WE REALLY CONSIDER THE PERSON JESUS THERE IS NOT ONE DESPAIRING OR BORING THING COULD EVER BE SAID. SO BEING A JESUS FREAK OR JESUS PEOPLE IS NOT QUIET SO BAD. "WE HAVE FOUND THE MESSIAH" THE FIRST DISCIPLES SAID. JESUS WAS NOT LOST & DID NOT NEED TO BE FOUND - WE ARE LOST & NEED TO BE SAVED BY HIM. TO "FIND" JESUS IS TO MAKE HIM PERSONAL & UP CLOSE - IN YOUR FACE - IN WAYS THAT WILL BLOW YOUR MIND & EXPAND YOUR LIFE WITH NEW HOPE & POWER. WE ARE TO MAINTAIN A NEW FOUND DIRECTION AS CHURCH & BELIEVERS TO MAKE SURE WE ARE ALWAYS REVEALING JESUS TO THOSE WHO SEEK HIM.

I LOST A ONE PG DOCUMENT LAST WEEK - THE HUNT WAS ON - I SEARCHED DESK DRAWERS, FILE DRAWERS, STACKS HERE & THERE - NOT ONCE OR TWICE BUT THREE TIMES. I KNEW IT WAS THERE. I BECAME REALLY UPSET WITH MYSELF & LACK OF FILING SKILLS - I KNEW I HAD IT - LOST IT - FIND IT. FIND IT I FINALLY DID - FILED ON MY COMPUTER JUST WHERE I LOST IT. IT WAS NEVER LOST - I JUST NEEDED TO FIND IT. JESUS IS NOT LOST BUT WE NEED TO FIND HIM. IT IS MORE OF A COMING TO OURSELVES WITH AN "AHA" THERE YOU ARE! JESUS HAS BEEN THERE THE WHOLE TIME - WE JUST WASTE WAY TOO MUCH TIME LOOKING IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES FOR SOLUTIONS & SATISFACTION THAT ONLY JESUS CAN/WILL GIVE. IT IS MORE OF A "COMING HOME" TIME FOR THE ONES (YOU & ME) THAT WERE LOST. COME HOME - COME & SEE....

WHEN WE GET IT IN GEAR TO COME & SEE & FIND JESUS - VINTAGE JESUS - NOT PACKAGED, DILUTED, COMMERCIALIZED & POLITICALIZED JESUS - BUT REALLY JESUS, WELL, WE WILL FIND OUR LIVES TO BE CHANGED & MADE SO DIFFERENT THAT WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE OUR NAMES CHANGED - BECAUSE WE ARE NO LONGER THE SAME PERSONS. WE TEND TO DEFINE OUR LIVES BY ALL THE MISTAKES WE HAVE MADE OR BY THE SUM TOTAL OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS - OTHER PEOPLE SURELY DO THAT FOR & TO US AS WELL. JESUS LIFTS US UP BY OUR BOOT STRAPS - DUST ALL THE SINS & FAILURES OFF OUR SHOULDERS - BOXES OUR TROPHIES AWAY TO SAY, NO LONGER ARE WE RECOGNIZABLE AS OUR OLD SELVES BUT A NEW SELF & NAME IS IN ORDER. WE HAVE BEEN MADE OVER BRAND NEW IN OUR ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS. NO MATTER WHAT OTHER PEOPLE MAY CONTINUE TO SAY.....NOPE, NOT THE SAME YOU OR ME. JESUS HAS COME CRASHING INTO OUR LIVES WITH A MAKE OVER - A LIFT UP OF OUR LIVES AS ONLY GOD CAN DO. GOD MADE US, GOD CLAIMS US, GOD REDEEMS US.....NEW NAME - NO LONGER SIMON BUT NOW PETER. PEOPLE MAY LOOK AT US TO TRY TO TREAT US THE SAME - THE JOKE IS ON THEM - SURPRISE, SURPRISE JESUS HAS MET US, CHANGED US - THE CHANGE IS SO SEVERE, DEEP & LASTING THAT A NAME CHANGE IS IN ORDER.

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD.

GO AND FOLLOW HIM.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

COME AND SEE JESUS.

WE HAVE FOUND THE CHRIST.

IT IS JESUS.....COME AND SEE!

LET ALL THAT WE DO POINT TO JESUS!