



One Pursuit, Part 3 :: Jackson Crum

Background to John

Date --- 85 - 95

THEME of JOHN - Scripture Memory

John 20:31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Who was the most instrumental in you becoming a follower of Jesus?

- A. A small group leader
- B. A pastor
- C. A friend or spouse/family member
- D. A TV/online personality or preacher
- E. A book
- F. Other

THE POWER OF AN INVITATION FROM A CONVINCED PERSON

What we are CONVINCED of we invite others to enjoy
Who we BELIEVE IN we want others to know

Some of the best things and relationships in my life have come by way of an invitation

THE POWER OF AN INVITATION FROM A CONVINCED PERSON

John 1:35–51 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39 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. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter). 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 of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” 48 Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were

under the fig tree, I saw you.” 49 Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” 50 Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” 51 And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

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- Seems like John (author of this Gospel & is the unmentioned one in the Gospel he wrote), Andrew, Peter and Philip were all part of John’s ministry.
- We are not sure about Nathaniel

- Recommending disciples to a greater teacher was rare and required great humility
- It communicated great confidence in the other teachers’ superiority

LAMB OF GOD = AGNUS DEI

- John has taught his disciples about this truth
- Slain for us - That was the plan
- Genesis 22, Exodus 12, Isaiah 53, Revelation 5
- Doctrine of substitutionary atonement
- Prefigured in the Passover

1 Corinthians 5:7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

Genesis 22:8 Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Revelation 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

Jesus as Messiah was confirmed for John the Baptist at the baptism of Jesus

John 1:32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

Luke 3:22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

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Andrew realized after spending time with Jesus that Jesus was THE ONE - The Messiah

THE POWER OF AN INVITATION FROM A CONVINCED PERSON

- He immediately thought about who was important in his life that he needed to share the news
- That one person who Andrew wanted to meet Jesus - It was his brother Simon

Andrew was someone who found people and introduced them to Jesus

- Little boy with the lunch – John 6
- Greeks – John 12
- His brother Peter – John 1

This is written in such a way that it assumes we already know who Simon Peter is

- Notice it says ANDREW, SIMON PETER'S BROTHER
- This is because John is written later than the SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

MESSIAH (WHICH MEANS CHRIST)

John translates the Hebrew word He uses into Greek for the sake of his Greek speaking audience

Messiah & Christ = Anointed one

Only John uses the Hebrew name - MESSIAH

PETER CAME because of Andrew
THE POWER OF AN INVITATION FROM A CONVINCED PERSON

“So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

- Nicknames were common and rabbis sometimes gave nicknames to their disciples
- In the OT God often changed names to describe some new characteristic of a person
- Abraham – Sarah – Jacob - Joshua

This the first of two times Jesus renames Peter

Matthew 16:17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

John seems to be their first one

The Matthew passage seems to confirm the name change

Peter/Cephas = ROCK

Greek & Aramaic/Hebrew

Jesus is thinking of the ROCK like character that will come as Peter becomes a follower of Jesus

Obviously this is not something Peter is now

**THE POWER OF AN INVITATION FROM A CONVINCED PERSON
may get you started, but you need to become convinced yourself**

We are renamed – CHRISTIAN

In this name we find our hope to become what we are not

It defines what is now true of us

It defines what we are becoming

Not what you are now – but what you will become in CHRIST

Untrustworthy – Faithful

Bound - Free

Selfish - Generous

Deceitful - Truth Teller

Self-centered - Servant
Fearful – Courageous
Lazy – Diligent

When we see the change that the Gospel is producing in us we become more convinced – we believe

When those around us see the change that comes with our new name we serve as an invitation of hope to others

What has happened to me could happen to you

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.

Jesus has moved from BETHANY BEYOND THE JORDAN to the GALILEE REGION

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

FOLLOW ME - In the dust of the Rabbi

One of the Mishnah rabbis would tell disciples or students, “May you be covered in the dust of your rabbi.” Because you would have a rabbi come to the village and behind him would be these students/disciples following right behind him. And the roads were dusty. So these disciples who closely followed their rabbis would get covered with the dust of their rabbi.

PHILIP BECAME CONVINCED – HE BELIEVED

45 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.” 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” 48 Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” 49 Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” 50 Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” 51 And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

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THE POWER OF AN INVITATION FROM A CONVINCED PERSON

MOSES IN THE LAW AND ALSO THE PROPHETS WROTE

A common Jewish designation for the OT
Philip no doubt means the Messiah

Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

- Then he gives Jesus’ name – NO LAST NAME in those days
- That was how you identified someone in Jesus’ day
- By home town and by their father

46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

- Nazareth was not a big town
- BUT NEITHER WAS CANA
- Cana and Nazareth were 8 miles apart
- Just 2000 people in the time of Jesus
- Not significant
- Nazareth is not mentioned in pre-Christian texts
- It was a city where many of King David’s relatives relocated over time

- Nazareth seems to have been a very traditional, orthodox town - reputation of being strict in their obedience of the Torah
- Priests later considered it ritually clean enough to move there

THE POWER OF AN INVITATION FROM A CONVINCED PERSON

“Come and see.”

- Does not argue with him
- Does not try to justify himself
- Check it out yourself
- Jesus can stand on His own

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”

- Jesus makes a play on the word of Jacob/Israel who was a man of guile
- Genesis 27:35 & 31:26

48 Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?”

- Jesus stirs Nathanael’s curiosity
- Jesus shows prophetic ability again – supernatural power

This is to give credence to the fact Jesus is the Messiah

SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

Rabbinic literature, sitting under the fig tree and tending the fig tree are both used to speak of studying Torah, praying and meditating

He may have been with other men of the community as they studied aloud

49 Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

Nathanael’s declaration

He BELIEVES

50 Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” 51 And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

This is the first of many references Jesus makes of Himself as the SON OF MAN

- This is Jesus’ favorite description of Himself
- Jesus uses this to represent his relation us

you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

JESUS APPLIES THE STORY

Jacob was filled with guile and had been forced to leave home because he had lied to his father and had swindled his brother. If under these circumstances Jacob was eligible for a revelation from God, would not Nathanael be worthy of such a blessing as well.

Jesus is the ladder

Jesus can be seen as being the ladder, in that Christ bridges the gap between Heaven and Earth. Jesus presents himself as the reality to which the ladder points; as Jacob saw in a dream the reunion of Heaven and Earth, Jesus brought this reunion, metaphorically the ladder, into reality.

Adam Clarke, an early 19th century Methodist theologian and Bible scholar, elaborates:

APPLICATION

THE POWER OF AN INVITATION FROM A CONVINCED PERSON

HOW DO WE BECOME CONVINCED? How do we learn to believe?

Alpha at Park is the best place

BUT, we are not convinced once

We continue to grow in our believing – we grow in our being convinced

We keep growing in our knowledge

ONE PURSUIT

THE POWER OF AN INVITATION FROM A CONVINCED PERSON

THE POWER OF AN INVITATION

INVITATION TO A SERVICE is only part of the story

- **Most people come to church because of a personal invitation.**
- **Only 2% of church going people invite someone to church in a given year.**
- **7 out of 10 people who are not attending a church have never been invited to church in their whole lives**
- **82% of the people who are not attending a church are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited**

We can't just make an invitation and think we are done

George Barna

"The weekend church service is no longer the primary mechanism for salvation decisions; only one out of every ten believers who makes a decision to follow Christ does so in a church setting or service. On the other hand, personal relationships have become even more important in evangelism, with a majority of salvation decisions coming in direct response to an invitation given by a family member or friend."

It is take courage to make extend the invitation

Penn of Penn & Teller

. . . I've always said, you know, that I don't respect people who don't proselytize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe that there's a heaven and a hell, and people could be going to hell, or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think that, well, it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward ... how much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that? I mean, if I believed beyond a shadow of a doubt that a truck was coming at you, and you didn't believe it, and that truck was bearing down on you, there is a certain point where I tackle you. And this is more important than that ...

Who do you/I need to invite:

- To coffee
- To lunch
- To jog with you
- To join your family for the holidays
- To church
- To your small group
- To ALPHA
- To read the Bible together
- To meet with someone who can answer their questions

WHO? _____

THE POWER OF AN INVITATION FROM A CONVINCED PERSON

What step do you/I need to take today?

I need to work on being convinced/believing

I need to work on my willingness to invite