15-21 January 2023 Come, see, tell, repeat

John 1: 29-42

Read the passage from John. It is written below.

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, “After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.” I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.’ And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed,

 ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 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?’ 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. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated Anointed). 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).

**Bible notes**

John the Baptist gives Jesus a new title that does not appear elsewhere in the Gospels – he calls Jesus ‘the Lamb of God’ and points him out to his own followers, saying ‘behold’, ‘look’. There is a visionary quality to the way that John the Baptist was able to recognise Jesus – John had been waiting to see the Holy Spirit descend on one person he baptized. When he sees Jesus again in the street, he declares that Jesus is the Lamb of God who will take away the ‘sin of the world’. Throughout the Bible, lambs are innocent, vulnerable creatures. The purest lambs can be offered as sacrifices. God’s people are described as lambs in need of a shepherd. There are pictures of the lion lying down with the lamb, the redemption of the natural world at the end of time. The lamb is a creature

that is pure in obedience, but powerless in independent action. It is worth reflecting on this title as an image of the meekness of Jesus who, even in the fiery, apocalyptic book of Revelation, still appears as a lamb ‘standing as if it has been slaughtered’ (Revelation 5.6). John the Baptist gives Jesus this startling and unique title and John’s disciples begin to follow Jesus down the street. His reaction? He invites them to his home. On the basis of this meeting, Andrew makes the time to talk to his brother Simon, assuring him ‘We have found the Messiah’. When Jesus sees Simon, he gives him the new name Cephas (Aramaic for ‘rock’; the Greek is ‘Petros’, from which we get ‘Peter’).

### **Reflection**

Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.

The Franciscan Richard Rohr makes the provocative statement, ‘Worship of Jesus is rather harmless and risk-free; following Jesus changes everything.’ Can we imagine ourselves into the situation of following Jesus down the street, then meeting and sitting at table with him, then telling someone else about meeting him? How are the experiences of the first disciples reflected in our experiences? This is not a path of power, but a path of openness. It might well be accompanied by the same feelings aroused in the servant of Isaiah 49.4. Discouragement or doubt are not signs we are on the wrong path but, as the Psalmist puts it, ‘Happy are those who make the Lord their trust.’

**Questions for reflection**

You could also use the image and following questions to help introduce the theme.

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 **Questions**

* What is your experience of telling others the good news about Jesus?
* How did you first hear/find out about Jesus?
* Why is the pattern of come, see, tell, repeat important for mission

## **Prayer**

Adapt to your local context.

Thank you, Lord, that you have always welcomed us;
**thank you for your invitation.**
You invited us to come and see;
**thank you for your invitation.**
To come and see your goodness;
**thank you for your invitation.**
To come and see your kindness;
**thank you for your invitation.**
To come and see your generous hospitality;
**thank you for your invitation.**
To come and see your miracles;
**thank you for your invitation.**
To come and see that you died for us on the cross;
**thank you for your invitation.**
To come and see the freedom we now have in you;
**thank you for your invitation.**
Freedom to be the people you have called us to be;
**thank you for your invitation.**
**Thank you.**
**Amen.**

## **A prayer to end the Bible study**

Lord, you invited us to come and see
and you opened our eyes to your wonders.
We have been transformed by our encounter with you.
Now give us the courage to go and tell,
to share who you are with others we meet,
so they too may be transformed by you.
**Amen.**