

# Meditation 4

## John 1:35-42

“Come and you will see . . .”

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and 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 you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.

He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Christ). Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

### Points for Meditation

- 1) "Come, and you will see."
- 2) "What are you looking for?" Wow! That sentence should stop us dead in our spiritual tracks! Jesus is saying the same exact thing to us right now, as He sits next to us. What am I looking for?
- 3) "Come and you will see". Jesus responds to the question his newbie disciples/followers' question, "Where are you staying?" We don't want to take the words of John's Gospel at face value.

## Quotes for Meditation

“Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself. At its essence are the proclamation of salvation in Jesus Christ and the response of a person in faith, which are both works of the Spirit of God. It must always be directly connected to the Lord Jesus Christ. ‘There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the Kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed’” (Evangelii Nuntiandi, 22, St. Pope Paul VI).

Sharing the faith is the "oxygen" that "invigorates and purifies" Christian life, Pope Francis said. Beginning a new series of catechesis focused on evangelization and apostolic zeal, the pope said that when Christian life loses its aim of proclaiming the Gospel, it becomes "self-referential" and "atrophied." "Without apostolic zeal, faith withers," he told people gathered Jan. 11 in the Vatican audience hall. The pope specified, however, that "to be a missionary, to be apostolic, to evangelize, is not the same thing as proselytizing," or actively seeking to convert someone. Quoting the late Pope Benedict XVI, who died Dec. 31, [2022], Pope Francis said that "the church does not proselytize, but rather she grows by 'attraction'" to the beauty of God's love. Evangelization "does not begin by seeking to convince others, but by bearing witness each day to the love that has watched over us and lifted us back up," he said. "Communicate this beauty to convince people," Pope Francis said. "We are the ones who announce the Lord, we do not announce ourselves, nor a political party or an ideology. Put people in contact with Jesus without convincing them. Let the Lord convince them." (Vatican City, CNS, Jan. 11, 2023)

### Possible Resolutions:

- 1) Spend some time today reading and meditating on the Gospel passage above.
- 2) Read at least a part of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel".
- 3) Share with a family member, friend or acquaintance, something you took away from your meditation today.

