

JESUS TURNS SEEKERS INTO REACHERS.

Seekers to reachers:

- Jesus transforms our primary passion to build a **greater** kingdom: John the Baptist rejects the “**Empire**-builder” temptation and points his followers to Jesus – 1:36-38

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?”

- Jesus graciously **welcomes** seekers: *Come and you will see – 1:39-40 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.*

- Andrew reaches out to Peter – 1:41-42
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, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

- Philip reaches out to Nathanael – 1:43-51
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.”

Questions for seekers:

- What am I truly seeking?
- How do I respond when God reveals **truth** to me?
- Am I willing to follow the evidence where it leads?

“Honest inquiry is a sovereign cure for prejudice. Nazareth might be all that Nathanael thought, but there is an exception to prove every rule; and what an exception these young men had found!” – F.F. Bruce¹

Questions for reachers:

- What is the ‘tone’ of my social media **presence**?
- Who has God placed on my heart to reach out to?

“Evangelism usually is best advanced by genuine, concerned, loving proclamation and invitation.”² – Gerald L. Borchert

“He [Andrew] thus became the first in a long line of successors who have discovered that the most common and effective Christian testimony is the private witness of friend to friend, brother to brother... That has been the foundational principle of truly Christian expansion ever since: new followers of Jesus bear witness of him to others, who in turn become disciples and repeat the process.”³ – D.A. Carson

“Indeed, some find Christ not through their own search for him, but because those who know him bring them to him. So Peter by Andrew, and Nathanael by Philip.”⁴ – Arthur John Gossip

- What could God do through my reaching out?

¹ Cited in, D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991), 160.

² Gerald L. Borchert, *The New American Commentary* Vol. 25A (John 1-11) (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 147.

³ D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991), 155, 159.

⁴ Arthur John Gossip, *The Interpreter’s Bible: The Gospel According to St. John* Vol. VIII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1952), 486.