

## Text— John 1:35-51

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Our Scripture selection relates some interesting things which occurred as Jesus was beginning His public ministry and called the first few of His twelve disciples.

John the Baptist had been doing what he was called by God to do as he prepared people to receive the promised Savior, for prior to our text we read in John 1:19-34, “And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy

Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.” Hence, John the Baptist prepared people to receive the real Jesus Christ, and John pointed people to Him.

My friends, our Scripture selection can be of benefit to all who carefully consider it, for in effect it urges every one of us:

“FOLLOW THE GENUINE JESUS”

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) Who the genuine Jesus is
- 2) What the genuine Jesus has done and does

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Verses 35 & 36, ----- (John 1:35-36)

It was the day after John the Baptist had testified to some priests and Levites of the Pharisees whom the Jews had sent to him, that again, *John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!* Thus, by John the Baptist's testimony we are assured that the genuine Jesus is the LAMB OF GOD— the perfect blemish-free full and final sacrifice for all the sins of all people. Yes, the name JESUS means SAVIOR, and that is exactly what Jesus is: the one true Savior of the whole world, because Acts 4:12 declares in no uncertain terms, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Verses 37-39, ----- (John 1:37-39)

Upon hearing John the Baptist testify that Jesus is the Lamb of God, two of John's disciples followed Jesus. *Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the*

*tenth hour.*

Accordingly, we note that the genuine Jesus, who is the Lamb of God and the Savior of the world, is also RABBI and MASTER, that is, the ultimate Preacher and Teacher. Hence, later when the Pharisees and chief priests who hated Christ sent officers to take Him, those officers had to confess, as John 7:46 reports, "Never man spake like this man." Oh, Jesus Christ is indeed the ultimate Master Preacher and Teacher, for He has "the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

Think about Jesus' preaching and teaching. It was shortly after John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus that John was imprisoned; and, we are informed in Mark 1:14-15, "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Thus, Jesus perfectly preached Law and Gospel, repentance and remission of sins.

My friends, God's Law shows us our sin, while the Gospel of Christ shows us our Savior from sin, Jesus Christ, whom we all desperately need to believe on to be saved, for Romans 3:19-26 relates, "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the

justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." So, we ALL need to follow the genuine Jesus, the Savior, the Lamb of God who is also the ultimate Preacher and Teacher.

Looking again at our text we observe that the two disciples of John who followed Jesus *abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour,* around 4:00 P.M.

Verses 40 & 41, -----. (John 1:40-41)

Andrew wasted no time in going to tell his brother Simon Peter about Jesus, whom he rightly identified as the Messiah, the Christ. Yes, Jesus IS THE CHRIST, the MESSIAH foretold of old! The name "Christ" means "anointed"; and, concerning Jesus, John 3:34-35 relates, "he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand." Additionally, Hebrews 1:8-9 informs us, "unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." Thus, the genuine Jesus is anointed with the Holy Ghost without measure! Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the living God; Jesus is true man and true God, but one Christ.

Verse 42, -----. (John 1:42)

Andrew brought his brother, Simon Peter, to Jesus. *And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.* Jesus was fully aware that Peter would later make a rock-solid confession when he would say to Jesus, as Matthew 16:16 reports, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Yes, my friends, the genuine Jesus IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD, the only Jesus who is truly our Savior and our Lord, and is all-knowing. Any other "Jesus" is a false Jesus who is NOT to be followed. We should all be

like Cephas in making a rock-solid confession of Christ Jesus.

Verses 43 & 44, ----- (John 1:43-44)

Jesus called yet another disciple, a man named Philip who was of the same fishing town as Andrew and Peter. Bethsaida was located near the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Take it to heart that the genuine Jesus still calls folks to be His followers, and He does His calling through His Holy Word, His Gospel in particular, for we read in Romans 1:16-17 and 10:17, "the gospel of Christ... is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Realize if one is a true Christian, it is because the Lord Jesus Christ has called him or her to faith.

Verses 45 & 46, ----- (John 1:45-46)

After Philip had been called by Jesus, Philip witnessed for Jesus to a man named Nathanael, saying, *We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.* Joseph was Jesus' foster-father, being the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, and, Jesus did grow up in Nazareth of Galilee.

Philip believed that Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Messiah foretold of old in the Old Testament Holy Scriptures, for Moses and the prophets had written about the Savior. Yes, Moses by inspiration of God wrote in the book of Genesis about the Seed of woman who would bruise the devil's head. (Genesis 3:15) Also, the prophet Isaiah by inspiration of God wrote of that promised Seed of a woman, for we read in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." And, in Isaiah 9:6 it is written, "unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his

shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Accordingly, the genuine Jesus is the Jesus foretold of old by Moses and the prophets in the Old Testament Holy Scriptures. Any other "Jesus" is a false Jesus who is NOT to be followed.

Observe that Nathanael at first doubted Philip's testimony concerning Jesus, for *Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.* Nathanael was apparently aware of the prophecies which revealed the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; and so, Nathanael assumed Jesus of Nazareth could not be the Christ since Nathanel wrongly concluded that Jesus of Nazareth had been born in Nazareth. Additionally, it seems that Nathanael did not think much of Nazareth as a place from which anything good could come. But thankfully, Philip urged Nathanael to come and see Jesus for himself.

Verses 47-49, ----- (John 1:47-49)

Observe that as Nathanael was approaching Jesus, *Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!* Jesus knew Nathanael was an Israelite, a Jew, who was not a person given to trickery and deceit, but rather spoke straight-out what was on his mind.

*Nathanael saith unto Jesus, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.* Wow, can you imagine how it struck Nathanael when Jesus described exactly where Nathanael had been before Philip had called him. The fact that Jesus saw Nathanael before he was within physical sight-distance must have blown the guy's mind! However, the genuine Jesus is ALL-SEEING and ALL-KNOWING because He is true God in addition to being true man.

Nathanael's doubts about Jesus of Nazareth were quickly eliminated, for *Nathanael answered and*

*saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.* Nathanael was now fully convinced that Jesus of Nazareth was not only the son of Joseph in a legal sense, but was in fact THE SON OF GOD and RABBI and KING OF ISRAEL in the highest sense of those terms.

My friends, the genuine Jesus is the only begotten Son of God and the Master Teacher above all others, “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him,” relates John 1:17-18. The genuine Jesus is the ever-reigning King of Israel, for Isaiah 9:7 informs us, “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.” Indeed, the genuine Jesus is, as we read in 1 Timothy 6:15-16, “the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”

God grant that we all know, trust, and confide in the genuine Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, the Christ of the Holy Bible who is the Savior of the world, our Lord and King, for John 3:36 plainly states, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

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As we ponder our text to its conclusion, let us see what the genuine Jesus has done and does.

Verses 50 & 51, ----- (John 1:50-51)

Nathanael was so impressed by Jesus’ divine knowledge of him that Nathanael subsequently confessed that Jesus is the Son of God and King of

*Israel. Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.*

Jesus had given Nathanael one little demonstration of His divine omniscience and it blew Nathanael’s mind, so to speak. Nathanael, as one of Jesus’ twelve disciples, would be privileged to witness numerous greater miracles done by the Lord Jesus as he would travel about with Him over the next three years. Furthermore, Nathanael would frequently hear the greatest preaching and teaching the world has ever known when he would listen to the Lord Jesus preaching and teaching His Word – God’s Word – perfectly. What is more, Nathanael would behold the greatest of all events when the genuine Jesus, the Lamb of God, would give Himself into death as the perfect offering for all the sins of all people when He would shed His own holy and precious blood while nailed to the tree of the cross. Oh, the genuine Jesus has done great things, for all that Nathanael would see did come to pass.

Realize though, the genuine Jesus – true God and true man – still does great things, for He has opened heaven to us as He is still the Ladder by which we can enter heaven above, for Jesus Himself tells us in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” Indeed, it’s true, for John 3:16-18 clearly states, “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” Thus, we ALL need the genuine Jesus who is the Son of God and Son of man.

Therefore, let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins; let us keep our full trust and confidence in Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord; and, let us go forward never forgetting that it's vital for each and every one of us to always follow the genuine Jesus since He is the only Provider of salvation, the only Deliverer from never-ending doom. Amen.

m.e.l.