

John 1:35-51, Daily Devotions

❑ Monday - The Fruit of a Disciple is Another Disciple. John 1:35-37

“Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God!’ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus” (John 1:35-37). Before these two men became disciples of Jesus, they were disciples of John the Baptist. While it is the job of every Christian to make disciples (Mt. 28:19), it is not to make followers for ourselves, but for Christ. Whether it is a Christian parent raising a child, a Christian woman discipling younger women, or a Sunday School teacher instructing his class, the goal of all Christian discipleship is to make disciples who can follow Christ on their own. Read Colossians 1:28

❑ Tuesday - True Faith is Inviting. John 1:40-42

“One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which translated means Christ). He brought him to Jesus” (John 1:40-42). In his excitement, Andrew’s first reaction was to find his brother and bring him to Christ. Someone has described Christian evangelism as one beggar telling another poor beggar where he found bread. This is another litmus test of authentic Christianity: the desire to know Christ and make Him known. Are you a Christian? Then go and tell someone today that you have found the Bread of Life (John 6:35). Read 1 Peter 3:15

❑ Wednesday - He Calls Us What We Will Be in Christ. John 1:42

“Jesus looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter)” (John 1:42). The name *Cephas* (Aramaic) or *Peter* (Greek), meaning “rock,” was Jesus’ nickname for this disciple and it characterized not what Peter was at that moment, but rather what Christ would make of him. Certainly Peter was no rock when Jesus called him, for he constantly vacillated between faith and fear (Mt. 14:28-30; 26:33-35, 69-75). Nevertheless, by God’s grace and Christ’s prayers, Peter gradually grew into his name (Lk. 22:31-32). Dear reader, do you despair because you do not perfectly live up to the name “Christian” or “saint” (1 Cor. 1:2)? Here is God’s promise to you: “He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil. 1:6). And so the Christian can say, “Thank God that I am not what I once was (Eph. 2:1-3, 11-12), and by the grace of God I am changing into what God wants me to be (1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 15:51-53).” Read 2 Corinthians 3:18

❑ Thursday - Jesus Found Me So That I Could Find Him. John 1:43

“The next day [Jesus] purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip” (John 1:43). [Then] Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote” (John 1:45). Philip states here that he found Jesus, and yet the text explicitly says that Jesus found Philip. God is always the Initiator. We choose Christ, because He first chose us (Acts 13:48); we love God, because He first loved us (1 John 4:19); we are energized to seek for God, only after He first seeks and saves us (Rom. 3:11; Lk. 19:10). Jesus said, “You did not choose Me but I chose you” (John 15:16). Let us then worship Christ as King for all of our holy affections and impulses, for He is the only source of holy desire in men or angels. Apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). Read John 1:12-13; Philippians 2:12-13

❑ Friday - Jacob’s Ladder. John 1:51

Jacob had a dream of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, and the angels ascending and descending on it (Gen. 28:12). Two thousand years later Christ explained that dream: “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man” (John 1:51). Jacob’s ladder is Christ, who is the only access to heaven from earth. This must be our message: Jesus Christ is the only Door (John 10:9), the Narrow Gate (Mt. 7:13-14); the only Way (John 14:6) to heaven. Read Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5