

Discipleship Sermon Series - Feb/March 2025

Week One: 'Come & See'

Ephesians 1.3-14 / John 1.35-51

9th February 2025 – Revd Michelle Lepine

Summary of key points

“He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.” (Eph 1.5-6)

“Come and see.” (John 1.39 & John 1.48)

Discipleship is a word that we use often as Christians. We describe ourselves as disciples of Jesus, but I wonder if we could explain to someone who doesn't know Jesus what it really means.

In John's gospel, Jesus uses just three words to help us to understand – “Come and See.” These are the words Jesus used to invite his first disciples to follow him and they are words that he extends to each one of us today, no matter who we are. The invitation to follow Jesus:

- **Personal and relational:** Jesus wants the disciples to engage personally in relationship with him. He doesn't just tell them what they should do or how they should be, but he invites them to explore and ask questions. He desires for his disciples to seek him out. In Ephesians, Paul reminds us that God's love for us, shown in Jesus, is so vast that he sees us as his children.
- **Physical and experiential:** when we take the physical action of exploring relationship with Jesus, we can enter a deeper understanding of who he is and how it impacts our life. We 'see' with greater clarity and wonder.
- **Persistent and ongoing:** we don't simply accept the invitation once but every day afresh. Discipleship is a lifelong journey as we are invited to stay or abide with Jesus.

Application questions for discussion

Read the Bible passages again, ideally using at least 2 different versions, and then consider the following questions:

- If you have accepted the invitation to be a disciple of Jesus, reflect on the experience. How did it happen? What did it feel like? If not, what is stopping you?
- Where have you seen deeper revelation of who Jesus is in your life, recently or in the past? Where do you most often experience the company of Jesus?
- To what extent do you see yourself as a precious ‘child of God?’
- How does our church family expect people to grow in understanding, and how might we help it to happen?

Prayer activity

Spend time giving thanks to God that he sees you as his precious child and ask him to reveal how you might enjoy a deeper and more personal relation with him. Pray for our church family to grow together as disciples of Jesus.

If you enjoy contemporary music you might enjoy listening to this song - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKw6uqtGFfo>

Further reading (optional)

Rowan Williams, *Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life* (SPCK Publishing), 2016