

John 1:35-42

The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. ³⁶ As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, “Look! There is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ When John’s two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus.

³⁸ Jesus looked around and saw them following. “What do you want?” he asked them. They replied, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

³⁹ “Come and see,” he said. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. ⁴¹ Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means “Christ”).

⁴² Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”).

Background

The repeated phrase “which means” shows that John wrote his Gospel for a broad audience, not just Jews, by explaining terms like *Rabbi*, *Messiah*, and *Cephas*. Writing in Greek, John aimed to help all readers—both then and now—believe that Jesus is the Christ (John 20:31).

One of the first two disciples to follow Jesus was Andrew; the other was likely John himself, who never names himself but provides a detailed, firsthand account of the encounter.

Teaching Points

1. Jesus was God’s Lamb.

When John called Jesus the “Lamb of God,” the emphasis was not that the Lamb *is* God, but that Jesus is *God’s Lamb*—the one God provided for sacrifice. In the Old Testament, individuals brought their own lambs for sacrifice. So, when the sin of the world was being taken away, God brought **His** Lamb to the place of sacrifice.

2. Jesus is—and must be—more than just a friend.

John the Baptist pointed to Jesus not as a Friend, but as “*the Lamb of God*” —God’s sacrifice for our sins. While Jesus is indeed a true Friend, He must be received first and foremost as the One who died for us. We must trust Him that way, as the Lamb of God.

Application

1. Are we willing to lose, if the overall result is gain?

John the Baptist and Andrew were willing to step aside so that Jesus could be glorified. John said, “*He must become greater and I must become less,*” (John 3:30) and he didn’t get upset when his own disciples followed Jesus. Andrew brought Peter to Christ without jealousy, even though Peter became more prominent. Both humbly accepted lesser roles for God’s greater purpose. Are we willing to “lose” position or recognition if it means greater glory for Christ?

2. Have we brought all of our unsaved relatives to Christ?

Andrew brought his brother Peter to Jesus, but Peter still had to believe for himself. Likewise, our job is to bring people to Christ, and we can start with our relatives. You might think... *but they don’t live near me, or we’re not close with that particular family*, etc. However, these days it’s easier than ever to communicate and reach unsaved relatives by emailing, texting, and sharing online resources, as well as praying for them.