

“Come and See”

Based on John 1:40-49 (NIV)
Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

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John 1:40-44

† **Now we have 4 disciples of Jesus (Andrew, John, Peter, and Philip)**

John 1:45 - Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

† **Life in the small towns of Israel revolved around the synagogue, where the Old Testament was constantly read, taught, and argued.**

† **Philip is telling his friend Nathaniel that I have found the Messiah we have been hearing about in the synagogue.**

John 1:46a - "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

† **Nazareth was a quiet, undistinguished place that housed a Roman army fort for their troops.**

† **Nathanael's hometown, Cana, was only 4 miles from Nazareth.**

John 1:46b - "Come and see," said Philip.

† **Philip invites Nathanael as Jesus did to each of his early disciples, "Come and See."**

† **Not very many people have ever been argued into being a Christian.**

† **This scripture from John gives us a model for how we can share Jesus with others.**

† **1. It will be with people I know, not going up to strangers.**

† **2. They may very well resist my suggestion that they need Christ or to go to church.**

† **3. The final step is: Don't argue with them if they resist, just invite them to "Come and See."**

† **I must trust God's Spirit to work in a person.**

† **People may not respond immediately.**

John 1:47-49

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."

48 "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

† **Study after study reveals that around 85% of all converts today are brought to Christ by someone they already trust**

† **I am to plant the seed, invite them to "Come and See" and let God do the rest.**

Applying Today's Message:

† Why did I start going to church? Who led me?

† Who is someone I know, maybe even already a member here that does not come, who I could invite to come with me church?

† How will I respond if they argue with me - Argue back or say "Come and see"?

† Can I let God do the rest or do I feel I need to force others to follow Christ?