

Who's Your One Series
The Importance of One
(John 1:43-49)
Notes

⁴³ The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." (John 1:43-49)

- Earlier in Chapter 1 (1:27-28) John baptizes Jesus in Bethany, then John proclaims Jesus as Messiah to the crowds (1:28-34)
- Following this event John is with two of his disciples as Jesus passes by them. Jesus calls out to them and they leave John and follow Jesus
- This does not upset John, for John's life goal was to point others to Jesus and prepare the way for Jesus' ministry
- Andrew leaves and tells Peter about Jesus and Peter becomes a disciple of Jesus along with Andrew (1:40-41)
- The next day, after Peter and Andrew decide to follow Jesus, Jesus leaves for Galilee and finds Philip and tells Philip to follow him and become a disciple of his.
- Philip follows Jesus and immediately becomes a disciple-maker
- In this passage we see several principles relating to disciple-making

Commit to Being an Intentional Witness

- Jesus is the perfect model for being an intentional witness
- Before we see any of the newly minted disciples sharing Christ, we observe Jesus fulfilling his mission of seeking the lost (Luke 19:10) by being an intentional witness
- Philip follows Jesus' example and goes out and immediately recruits someone to follow Jesus
- Philip is intentional in telling Nathanael about Jesus

- Philip was not lazy or passive, but intentional in his witness
- Growth as a disciple and a disciple-maker will not happen by accident; it will only happen as we are intentional about our growth and our witness
- Our very salvation took place through a series of intentional acts
 - o The Father intentionally sent the Son to earth. Jesus intentionally died for your sins. The Spirit intentionally convicted you of your sin and showed you the depth of God's love. You, in response, intentionally made a profession of faith in Jesus and intentionally repented of your sin.
- Bible intake, prayer, giving, serving, and sharing Christ are all intentional acts
- The lost will not accidentally stumble onto the gospel; we must be intentional about sharing Jesus with them

Go and Tell

- Jesus intentionally goes and gets Philip and Philip intentionally goes and tells his friend Nathaniel
- Look at verse 45. Philip's invitation to Nathaniel is twofold:
 - o He introduces Jesus as what Nathaniel was looking for/missing in his life
 - o He provides an apologetic/defense showing Jesus is who he claims to be
- He says in verse 45, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about!"
- Nathaniel was an upstanding Hebrew. He knew the scriptures, he was looking forward to the Messiah and when Philip introduced Jesus as the person the scriptures foretold he provided Nathaniel exactly what he was looking for in his life
- One thing we can do in our intentional witnessing is make Jesus more appealing. Not that we have to change or alter Jesus or the gospel, but show people that Jesus is the essence of life, meaning, and purpose
- What people spend their lives looking for; searching in drugs, or alcohol; money, power, and status; or the many other vices we get caught in, that true meaning, joy, peace, and comfort; that grace, mercy, healing, and love are found in the person of Jesus
- Jesus is not some ideologue; he is a real person, a real Savior, a very real redeemer
- Another tool that will assist believers in sharing the gospel is to grow in their understanding and knowledge of the Bible
- Research conducted by Ed Stetzer shows that just 45% of people who regularly attend church read their Bibles once a week. 20% of churchgoers say they never read the Bible

Recognize and Repent of Excuses

Spiritual Lethargy (Losing the Habit of Witnessing)

- When we choose to do nothing when it comes to sharing our faith, it produces a believer with no growth in Christ, a church with no lost people hearing the gospel, and a hell with more sinners entering
- When we fail to grow in Christ (read the word, spend time in prayer, practice spiritual disciplines) and not being held accountable in our faith, it leads to a diminished desire to share our faith
- A healthy, growing believer will be a believer who spends time in the word, time in prayer, time with other believers, and time sharing their faith
- Let us break out of spiritual laziness and be men and women who faithfully grow in Christ and faithfully share him

Growing Inclusiveness

- A second excuse to recognize and repent of is a growing inclusiveness
- There is an idea that all roads lead to God.
- The subtle belief that someone who is “good” will make it to heaven outside of a true Christian conversion is not biblical
- Salvation comes, a relationship with the Father takes place, heaven is only secured through a confession of faith in Jesus who lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and was raised three days later

Busyness

- A third excuse to recognize and repent of is busyness
- A lot of us “want” to do something for Jesus, but we have packed our lives so full of stuff and crowded our schedules so much that we don’t have any room to serve Jesus
- At the end of your life you will not wish you had more time on the lake, more time on vacation, more money to spend, or more stuff in your shed
- You will, as a believer, wish you had made more of a priority out of Christ and obedience to him
- The lost need us to tell them about Jesus; to see him, hear him, to know him; and we need to tell them

Fear of Rejection

- Another excuse we need to recognize and repent of is a fear of rejection
- If our attempt at sharing Christ is rejected, the person is not rejecting us, he or she is rejecting Jesus
- We need to get over the fear of embarrassment

- Our possible rejection pales in comparison to the rejection of a person from heaven and eternal life because we failed to share with them

Failure to Invite

- The final excuse we need to recognize and repent of is a failure to invite others to church
- A simple gesture can have eternal consequences
- If we get excited about Jesus and our salvation, we will see the impact that one life, **our life**, can make in the world and how our obedience to share the gospel can have ripple effects throughout eternity