

Come and See Jesus

1. He Wants You to Find Him
2. He's Already Found You

*Come and See!*

- Get up! C'mon! C&S, says little boy, to sleeping prnts, Xmas morn, excited show them all gifts under Xmas tree. Look! C&S, says little girl, bounding off school bus, eager show m&d school papers & artwork. Gotta check this out! C&S, says husb to wife while on vaca: take a look, over lake, at brthtkng sunset. C&S!
- There's exctmnt, joy, desire share that exctmnt/joy, in those words – C&S! You've got see this! I've got smthng great show you; you don't want miss this. C'mon! C&S! It's that attitude of exctmnt we have in Gos for today. Here in Jn 1, we meet Phlp & Nthnl; they're meeting J for very 1st time; very excited! Phlp was 1st to meet J; then ran, found friend Nthnl, said: C&S!
- Phlp's words: exclnt invttn for you/me today: C&S J! It's exctng for us see J, meet/find him, whether we've known J most of life, or perhaps meeting him for 1st time today. We saw J few wks ago in manger at Xmas; saw him last wk in Jordan R when bptzd by JB. Today I'd like extend this invttn to you, using words of Phlp from our Gos: C&S! C&S J; wants you find him; he's already found you.

He Wants You to Find Him

- This acnt in Jn 1 takes place right after J's Bap (last Sun). On day before this lesson takes place, J meets two diff discs; names: Andrw & Jn. J invites Andrw & Jn follow him; and they do. Andrw so excited, runs tells bro Simon Pt, **"We have found the Messiah!" (Jn 1:41)**. Found J! C&S!
- Next day (today's Gos), bascly same thng haps, but w/diff ppl. J meets man by name Phlp, says follw me; does. Phlp so excited, runs finds friend Nthnl, says to Nthnl: **vs. 45**. We've found Messiah; it's J! But Nthnl at first: little skptcl; said **vs. 46a**. Didn't expect find Messiah coming from such simple place. But Phlp's reply to Nthnl was perfect. Simply said: C&S.
- As your Pr, I'm very excited tell you: we've found J! C&S! Questn is: where can J be found? Where we find J today? Answer: in words of Phlp: **vs. 45**. Place where we find J: in Word, Scrptrs, OT/NT. That's where we find J; that's where he wants us find him. He wants us turn Scrptr, read/hear again/again acct re birth (born sinless Son/God to save); Bap (strngthn us in faith as hear Fr, see HS dove); suffrngs (endured in life as fought tmptn evrdy; esp on cross, where willingly laid down life to take away sin forvr); res (assure us: just as he lives, smday we'll be raised fr dead, live w/him glory hvn). This how J reveals himself to us today: in Word/Scrptrs; this where he wants us find him.
- But this may not always be where we want find him. Smtms we're little skeptcl, like Nthnl. "Naz? C'mon, really? Too simple." "Scrptr? C'mon, really? Too simple." We want see: some mrcls; some vsbl prf; want hear Fr's voice; see an angel; want smthng more glorious than a book. If you've ever been temptd think of Scrptr as too simple, then let me just invite you: C&S, C&S J. This where he is; this where he wants you find him. J lets his glory shine thru these pages, bec this is the msg of God's love for us, and msg of our salvtn. J is here in Word (hear preached, taught, listen to, read, study, medtt upon). J is here in Word, conctd water of Bap (washes away sins, clothes us in robes/rightns, adopts into God's fam). J is here in Word, conctd bread/wine in HC (touches us w/very body/bld to forgv sins, assure us of his love for us). Don't look for J in all kinds strng places apart from his Word. J found right here in Scrtr, just like Phlp said: **vs. 45**. C&S J! This where he wants you find him.

He's Already Found You

- Even though Nthnl little skptcl, when friend Phlp said C&S, he did; so they went tog, found J. Then smthng unxpctd hapd. As Nthnl apprchnng J, J: **vs. 47b**. That wouldn't be so strng/unxpctd, except they'd nvr met before. Nthnl'd nvr seen J before; this first time two meetng face/face. So Ntnl obvslly surprsd: **vs. 48a**. And this J's respns: **vs. 48b**. J saw/found Nthnl long before Nthnl ever saw/found J.
- Sis/bro Xp, herein lies very imp truth of Xian faith: long before we ever find J, J finds us. Long before we ever come faith, J sees us under own fig tree, finds us as smone he loves, and reaches out to save us. He makes first move. J first finds us, before we find J.
- Many Xians don't undrstnd this. There some Xian denoms that teach: unbelvr (smone doesn't know/bel in J) can, of own will, decide to come to faith, bel in J on own; that they can actively reach out, find/accept J by own power. Maybe you've heard some Xians talk re acctng J into hrt, making dcsn for Xp, finding J on their own. That's how some will speak.
- Now, I'm certainly thankful for their Xian faith. But J was nvr lost! We were! And we dare nvr forget that. Dare nvr forget that we were ones lost in sin: we were born w/orgnl sin, and we daily sin vs God in thghts/wrds/actns. So we're ones who were lost, needng be found.
- Once we undrstnd this, only then can we truly apprct what means: J first finds us. He saw us, loved us, long before we ever cared re J or belvd in him. J came/saw/found us, just like did for Nthnl: **vs. 48b**. "I knew re you long before you cared re me; I loved you long before you blvd in me; I'm your Sav; and I'm one who found you."
- Found you in your Bap. Remem what we said last wk re how J's Bap reminds us of our Bap. When we baptzd, Lord's Anntd destrdyd 3 greatest enmies: sin, death, dvl. Dvl no longer controls us; all sins forgivn; and death no longer brings us to hell but to everlstng life in hvn. When you baptzd into Xp, it's almost like J came/found you under a fig tree, made you his disc. You didn't first find J, just like Nthnl didn't first find J. J'd already found Nthnl, just like J's already found you.

Conclusion

- So, we know where find J: in his word, in Scrptr – that's where he can be found; where he wants you to find him. And long before we find J, he finds us. He brought you faith; already found you.
- So C&S J, w/joy & exctmnt. Let Phlp's timeless, perfect invttn guide you as you live your faith, and as you share your faith: C&S J!

John 1:43-51

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 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." ⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." 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." ⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."