

John's Gospel : a study for fellowship groups

Further copies from: Adrian H Reed - Email: ahr@blueyonder.co.uk

These studies are also available online at www.ebe.org.uk



(2) Called to Follow (John 1:35-51)

Christians are not called to be pioneers, going 'where no man has gone before', but to be followers, going where Jesus has gone first. We should be happy about that, and encouraged. In the China Daily this piece of advice appears for Chinese going abroad (typos theirs, not mine!):

🤔 **Follow Someone** I think best solution not to make mistake when in different country is to follow someone who knows what they are doing. I always walk behind someone and copy them hehe that way i don't make a mistake and cause too much attention.

John baptises Jesus

In the last study we asked ourselves the question: "Why did Jesus need someone like John to be his messenger?". Whatever might have been our answer to that question on the basis either of the first half of the chapter or our own personal experience of becoming a messenger for Jesus, we find another reason here as we ask ourselves

Q 1 Why did Jesus need to be baptised (Jn 1:31)?
The First Disciples

It was the enthusiasm of Andrew after his first encounter with Jesus, which resulted in the introduction of Simon (later to be called Peter) to the Lord by his brother. Peter was to become one the most important players in the first century church. You never know what God has in mind for people that you and I may yet introduce to him. Billy Graham preached to more than half a million people at several football stadiums in England in 1984/5 with perhaps more than 50,000 making a commitment to God during the appeals with which meetings traditionally close. Churches today still have in attendance many who made this commitment at that time and others in the months which followed. Central to these events was what was called Operation Andrew as Christians wrote down up to 7 names of friends and acquaintances for whom they undertook to pray that God would touch their hearts and to invite them to one of the meetings. It was an exercise that God was pleased to bless in an amazing way. Today in many of our churches we do the same thing with out '*Three's a crowd*' initiative. (If you don't know anything about this then why not visit the Winning Ways Web at <http://www.winningwaysweb.com/> to find out more at It is friendship evangelism. We reach out to our own friends, praying for them, bringing them to inclusive ice-breaking events and look for opportunities to bring them to guest services, hopefully low on the cringe factor, where they may encounter Jesus. God is pleased to bless this amazingly as well.

Q 2 Can we commit ourselves once again to pray for three people and commit to looking for opportunities to bring them into our circle of acquaintance and indeed into God's presence meeting environment?

When Jesus met Simon he immediately revealed something of his plans for this disciple as he told him: you are 'Simon, you will be called Peter (meaning a stone, or small rock)'. There was a promise here, but not something that would happen straightaway. Later, when Peter made a full expression of faith in Jesus, the Lord told him 'you are Peter (Matt 13:13-19)'. There would still be ups and downs but the promises were beginning to unfold in Peter's life.

Q 3 What promises do we hold from the Lord which still await fulfilment and which have we had the encouragement of already seeing fulfilment of whether in part or in whole.

Jesus calls his disciples to follow (he called Andrew and Simon to follow as well – Mt 4:19). Their response was immediate (Mt 4:22) as they left their occupation. Not long afterward they returned to fishing as an occupation although in due course Jesus would be calling them specifically to leave this occupation altogether to indeed become 'fishers of men rather than fishermen'