

John 1:35-42



Passage:

³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

Notable People:

- **Andrew** - The brother of Simon Peter from Bethsaida, a town north of the sea of Galilee, one of the original 12 disciples.
- **Simon Peter** - An apostle of Jesus and one of the three named pillars of the early church in Jerusalem. Peter would be the first Christian missionary to the Gentiles, the Jews, and be martyred in Rome.

Notable Places:

- **Bethany** - The area beyond the Jordan where John the Baptist worked, the village where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived. There is where Jesus will begin his public ministry. It is located about three miles south of the Sea of Galilee.

Cross References:

- NT Use of the OT: Genesis 17:5, 15, 32:28, 35:10
- Shared Figurative Language: Matthew 16:17-18, Mark 3:16
- Keyword Usage: John 19:14,
- Similar Account: Matthew 4:18-22 (calling of the first disciples)

Key Words:

- ἀκολουθέω (akoloutheo) v. 37,38,40 - to go after and follow someone, namely as a disciple, obey.
- μένω (meno) v. 38,39 - to remain or stay, specifically with a person or thing where he/she or it is at.
- ραββι (rabbi) v. 38 - a proper address for someone and honorary title for outstanding teachers of the Law; “my lord” or “master” would be a rough equivalent.s

Notable Language:

- To see meaning to learn, “come and you will see” (v.39).

Notable Context:

- Names & Naming - the names of people, animals, plants, or object and any significance the names may bear in ancient times, and among some cultures and context, the naming of a thing implied power, authority, or control over the thing named by the one conferring the name. Jesus, in renaming Simon Peter is not only displaying and inviting Simon into a discipleship relationship, but foreshadowing his foundational stance as the “rock upon which I will build my church.”

Before:

- John’s prologue to his Gospel Account (v. 1-18)
- John the Baptist’s First Witness (v.19-28)
- John the Baptist’s Second Witness (v. 29-34)

After:

- Jesus calls Philip & Nathanael (v. 43-51)
- Jesus’ First Miracle at Cana (2:1-12)

Main Idea:

John 1:35-42 recounts the experience of two of Jesus's first disciples, Andrew and Simon Peter. After being directed to the Lord by John the Baptist, Andrew and Simon quickly recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah. In response, Jesus immediately called them to follow Him. In a gesture of profound missional significance, Andrew went and got his brother, making Simon the first disciple Jesus named; "you shall be called Cephas" or "Peter," meaning "rock" in Aramaic. The experience solidified their surety that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah and Lord, inspiring them to leave their former ways of life behind in order to serve Him without reservation. Their desire was met by Jesus who asked them, “What are you seeking,” which Jesus today still asks those who might wish to follow him. Are you seeking the Messiah or something else?