

John chapter 1, verses 29 – 42:-

Verses 29 – 34:- Note that this was the turning point in the ministry of John. He pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”. At least two of John’s disciples left him to follow the Lord Jesus. From that time on he knew that “He must increase, but I must decrease” (chapter 3, verse 30). Having pointed to Jesus as the Messiah the important part of his ministry was complete.

Remember Charles Wesley’s hymn – “*Jesus the name high over all*”

*Him as my righteousness I show,
His saving truth proclaim:
'Tis all my business here below,
To cry, Behold the Lamb!*

Verses 35 - 36:- Following the sequence in this Gospel the encounter with Philip and Andrew takes place two days after the public declaration of John the Baptist regarding the Lord Jesus. (“*the next day . . .*” verse 29, and “*The next day John again . . .*” verse 35). Notice the unselfish desire of John to glorify the Lord Jesus. In our witness for the Lord is our only desire to point to and glorify Him? It is so easy to claim a little ‘kudos’ for ourselves!

Verse 37 – 39 In staying with Him :- The two disciples who were with John the baptist left him and “*followed Jesus*”. Because they were known as ‘followers’ (disciples) of John their action in physically following the Lord Jesus indicated that it was with the intention of transferring their allegiance. The question of the Lord Jesus “*what do you seek?*” What more had the Lord Jesus to offer the followers of the Baptist? As proclaimed by John the Baptist, He was ‘the Anointed One’ – ‘the Messiah’. These new disciples were apparently still unsure, addressing him as ‘*Rabbi*’. (verse 38). In staying with Him they would have the opportunity to talk and listen over a meal.

Verses 40 – 42:- Only Andrew of the first two disciples is named. He was convinced that the Lord Jesus was the long expected Messiah and the first thing he did was bring his brother to Christ! Simon Peter is introduced early in this Gospel and plays a leading role throughout.

Note how important it is for those newly introduced to the Lord Jesus to go and witness to others!

Points for prayer:-

For humility in our witness to the Lord Jesus. He is important NOT our ego!

For the witness of ourselves and others in pointing to the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour and in bringing others to Him.

1) *Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice soundeth,
saying, "Christian, follow me;"*

2) *As, of old, Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.*

3) *Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store;
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."*

4) *In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."*

5) *Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.*

Cecil Frances Alexander 1852