

COME AND SEE

When did an invitation to encounter Jesus become an invitation to attend church?

“Come and see.” It may be one of the simplest invitations in the entire Bible.

In John 1, Jesus says it to two curious disciples who want to know where He is staying. One of them, Andrew, spends time with Jesus and immediately goes looking for his brother, Simon Peter. He tells him, *“We have found the Messiah,”* and brings him to Jesus.

Then Jesus finds Philip. Philip finds Nathanael and tells him, *“We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote, Jesus of Nazareth.”*



Nathanael is skeptical. *“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?”* Philip doesn’t argue with him. He doesn’t try to answer every objection or construct a theological defense. He simply says, *“Come and see.”*

But Philip wasn’t inviting Nathanael to a gathering. He was inviting him to encounter Jesus.

Somewhere along the way, many of us changed the invitation. *“Come and see Jesus”* became *“Come to church with me.”* Come hear our pastor. Come experience our worship. Come to our event. Come into our environment. Come see what we’re doing.

There is nothing wrong with inviting someone to church. Beautiful things happen when followers of Jesus gather together. But that isn’t what was happening in John 1. The invitation wasn’t to a place. The invitation was to a Person.

And when we make the gathering the primary place where people are invited to encounter Jesus, we unintentionally communicate something much bigger: Jesus is most likely to be found there.

So we spend enormous amounts of energy trying to get people from where they live into the places we have created. But Jesus never intended His presence to be contained within the places Christians gather. He placed His followers everywhere.

In neighborhoods. In offices. In classrooms. In hospitals. In restaurants. In coffee shops. In break rooms. Around dinner tables. Jesus wants to be revealed through His people wherever His people happen to be.

That makes *“Come and see”* deeply personal. It isn’t an invitation we outsource to the church. It belongs in the mouth of every follower of Jesus.

I have encountered Jesus. I know you. Come and see.

You don't need a stage, a building, a worship team, a preacher standing beside you, or an event to invite someone to. You know Jesus. And you know them. Bring the two together.

Andrew did exactly that. He found Peter and brought him to Jesus. Philip did exactly that. He found Nathanael and invited him to encounter Jesus for himself. Neither waited for someone more qualified. Neither needed a program. Neither needed to get someone into the right environment first. They simply allowed their encounter with Jesus to overflow into the relationships they already had.

What if we stopped asking ordinary followers of Jesus to bring people somewhere else so someone else can show them Jesus? What if we equipped them to recognize that they have already been sent?

Your workplace is filled with people Jesus loves. So is your neighborhood, your classroom, your gym, your favorite coffee shop, and your dinner table. The people around you don't have to enter our world before they can begin encountering Jesus.

Jesus has already placed someone in theirs.

You.

"Come and see" was never meant to be outsourced to a gathering. It belongs in the mouth of every follower of Jesus.

Because the invitation hasn't changed.

Come and see Jesus.