

## John 1:35-42

Sept. 21, 1986

Rome Ga.

March 9, 2014

To abide with Jesus in His dwelling place for one day is to desire to abide there **forever**. **The trouble with most Christians is that they have never spent even one day in the presence of God.**

Subject: The drawing of the disciples

Theme: The method of true effective evangelism. Proposition: While we are praying for sinners to come to Jesus, He is pleading with us to go to sinners

### OUTLINE

- I. DIRECTION will lead to
- II. II. DISCOVERY which should lead to
- III. III. DISSEMINATION which will ensure
- IV. IV. DEVELOPMENT
- V.

But development thwarted will lead to DESPONDENCY

### I. DIRECTION

READ 35-37

JTB was a man of GOD unparalleled by any man of God up to his day. WHEN JOHN THE BAPTIST SPOKE PEOPLE LISTENED.

"Influence has been defined as " the unseen power of one person over another"

The English writer, **John Donne** said, " **No man is an Island**"

And he was right, for our influence extends in ever widening circles like ripples when a stone is dropped in the water."

What we are leaves a lasting impression on others and often speaks as loudly as our words. "....."

Our words assume new power when they are backed up by a consistent life.

This was the case with **John the Baptist** in our passage today. When he pointed out Jesus to his disciples and said " behold the lamb of God" they followed the savior immediately. John's words AND life left such an impact that His testimony concerning the savior was believed without question. DB 11/12/84.

It should be our prayer and our practice that WE BECOME LIKE JTB in

**DIRECTING** people to the Savior.

Talking the talk is cheap. But walking the walk that backs up the talk will cost you your KINSHIP WITH THE WORLD.

JTB, like many of God's people before him, chose : "**rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. He esteemed the reproach of the Messiah greater riches than the treasures and bondage of this world.** (loosely applied from **Heb. 11:25-**

And because of this he could indeed DIRECT others to Jesus Christ.

CONSISTENT **DIRECTION** ON OUR PART WILL LEAD TO **DISCOVERY** ON THE PART OF OTHERS.

### II. DISCOVERY

READ 38-39

**DISCOVERY**, according to the dictionary, means " to bring to light, to learn, to find, or to see for the first time. "

Most people are so blinded by the things that they see and observe every day that they never really stop to see what may be **DISCOVERED** on a close examination of that which is familiar.

From the dawn of mankind, man has observed steam rising from water which is boiled. Many experienced its power to burn, and some saw its power released through explosions. But it was not until **JAMES WATT** turned his attention to steam in 1763, that its true power and application were **DISCOVERED**, or **SEEN FOR THE FIRST TIME**.

JUST SUCH BLINDNESS IS THE CASE OF MANY CONCERNING CHRIST. THEY NEED

**DIRECTION IN ORDER TO DISCOVER HIS SAVING POWER!!!!**

There have been so many discoveries that it seems almost impossible to label any one as the greatest of all. And yet, when everything is considered, there is one which stands out above all others.

It is best described by **SIR JAMES SIMPSON**, who was the originator of the use of chloroform as an anesthesia.

When he was asked, " what is YOUR greatest discovery?" he answered,  
" **THAT I AM A SINNER, AND THAT JESUS CHRIST IS MY SAVIOR.**" DB APR. 13 1969

Dr. Simpson was a man who **KNEW HIS GOD** and was not afraid to give **DIRECTION** to others.  
**HE GOT EXCITED AND TOLD THE WORLD AND THOUSANDS WERE SAVED.**

**When a person has truly found the Savior, they will find it hard to keep it a secret.**

"Many years ago in Montana some men were panning for Gold...One found a stone and broke it open. It contained Gold. They discovered an abundance of the precious metal. They had to go to town for supplies and vowed to utter not a word of their find in order to protect their claim. Indeed, none of them breathed a word on their trip into town. Yet when they prepared to leave, - hundreds of men had gathered to follow them. When they asked the crowd to reveal who had squealed" they replied " No one had to. **YOUR FACES SHOWED IT.**" DB 6/22/83.

We too **when we truly know Christ will find it hard to mask our DELIGHTFUL DISCOVERY**. When we come to know the savior we, **like Andrew and Philip**, should rush to share our **DISCOVERY**.

If **Jonas Salk** had kept **Quiet** about his discovery of a polio vaccine then many of us here today would not even be here .

BUT he did not remain silent. He rushed to **DISSEMINATE** this glorious **DISCOVERY** with the result that today **POLIO** is almost unheard of in our land.

You see. **DISCOVERIES** are indeed exciting. But if we fail to tell others, that is **TO DISSEMINATE the information** how will others know?

CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT OUR WORLD WOULD BE LIKE TODAY IF EVERY BELIEVER SHARED HIS OR HER FAITH WITH THE ENTHUSIASM OF A SCIENTIST WHO HAS **DISCOVERED A CURE?????**

**Use vv. 41 and 42A** here. "**Andrew first findeth his own brother, Simon,.... and he BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS.**"

### **III. DISSEMINATION**

The disciple Andrew had **NO SPECIAL TRAINING** and he never read a book on personal witnessing.

BUT HE KNEW WHAT JESUS HAD DONE FOR HIM, and he wanted his brother to also have the joy of KNOWING the SAVIOR . ANDREW DIDN'T WAIT FOR A SURVEY TO BE TAKEN TO DETERMINE WHERE THE MOST LIKELY PROSPECTS WERE TO BE FOUND. He started at home. HE BROUGHT PETER TO CHRIST!

Rev. Robert G. Lee said of this passage.

" Andrew brought Simon-just one. But one became many, for under God, Simon Peter brought **3,000 in one day**.

**Era Kimball**, a Sunday school teacher, brought **D.L. Moody** to Christ- just one. But that one became many, for Moody rocked two continents for God...."

The following was released by the UPI news service. " Coast Guard searchers today recovered the body of a **60 year old man** who fell from his cabin cruiser into the chilly waters of Lake Superior earlier in the day. Authorities said he fell from his 38-foot boat shortly after dawn about 15 miles from his hometown . **A spokesman said several persons were on the boat when he fell overboard and they radioed for help**. However none of them had much boating knowledge, and they were unable to maneuver the vessel to aid in the search efforts." What a predicament.... to see a friend perishing and be only able to call for someone else to help..... 7/25/78 DB.

One problem that we have in the **local church today** is that we **have too many people ALONG FOR THE RIDE**. They don't want to LEARN anything, **they don't really know how to help anyone else because they themselves have never spent time with the CAPTAIN OF THEIR SHIP**. All around them are people who are DROWNING and crying out for help, and although they may pray for someone to save the drowning victim, they may even call someone up who isn't afraid to get in the water, but they themselves remain on the safety of the deck.

Last week (March 6, 2014) a distraught woman drove a minivan full of children into the ocean. A passerby in another car saw it happen – but thought it was some teenagers goofing off – until he heard the cries for help from the terrified children! (there is a recording of his reactions because he was on the phone when he saw what was happening).. . . .

Sometimes we must listen carefully if we are to hear a cry for help. Almost 40 years ago, on the last vacation that our family took together, we were staying in a motel on the beach at **Panama City Florida**. My sister and I were swimming in the ocean and my **dad** was a little further down the beach **fishing**. I decided to go down and see if he was having any luck. As I walked down the beach I heard someone repeating the word **HELP!** over and over again. I looked out in the water and I saw a man and his son clinging to an inflatable air mattress. I called to them over the roar of the surf and asked if they needed any **HELP**. The man shook his head **NO**, so I continued down to where my dad was fishing. We talked a few minutes and then I started back for the room with dad's assurance that he would be along shortly. As I passed by the man and his son, I noticed that they were farther out in the ocean than they had **been and I didn't hear a word out of them**. **Dad comes along, hears the cry for help, wades out and saves the man and his son**. For the rest of our stay at the motel people came by and thanked my dad for his **HEROISM**.

APPLICATION OF ILLUSTRATION: **We need to listen for quiet cries for help.**

**Some people need our help even when they aren't sure that they do. Helping others is a matter of being sensitive to their needs.**

Our heavenly father hears every cry for help and will send someone to do the job. If we want to be Heroes instead of Bystanders, we need to be prepared to answer the cry for help from those around us.

The story is told of a **little boy** who said " **when**

**I grow up I want to be a church member just like Daddy. Nobody knows if he is a Christian or not.**"

What a tragedy. The man was so quiet about his salvation that his immediate family never heard him talk about Jesus. **He was like a clock without hands, perhaps all right on the inside, but no one could know for sure.**" DB 7/7/80.

What a tragedy when those of us who have been **DIRECTED** to the savior, and **DISCOVERED** that marvelous salvation that He so freely gives, fail to **DISPENSE** to others that life giving balm of salvation

We need to diligently seek to **DISSEMINATE** or **DISPENSE** or Share the gospel with others.

#### **IV. DEVELOPMENT**

" When **Peter** first began the Christian walk, he was known as Simon, a weak believer who had heard the word but followed the savior with many wavering steps and erratic actions. He was later to become **CEPHAS**, a rock of stability and a leading disciple of the Lord...."

" In *the Provincial Museum Of Alberta Canada*, Stands a Magnificent bronze sculpture called " THE PRONGHORNS" This exquisite work of art **BEGAN** as a rough ink **SKETCH** from which a small replica was molded in plaster. A full scale model was **THEN DEVELOPED**, and from that, a foundry in England cast the final bronze pieces which make up the statue."

**Just so we must go through stages of development** if we are to become what the Lord Jesus Christ wants us to be. "

As a child of God, how far have you progressed in growing from a Simon to a CEPHAS?"

Late in his life Peter wrote these words in **11 Pt. 3:18** to admonish the saints .

"Grow in grace and the Knowledge of our lord and savior, Jesus Christ" **10/14/73 DB.**

**Can you honestly say that you are growing in grace? Or have you decided that it is easier to remain a sketch with potential instead of a work of God on it's way to completion.**

Are you **DIRECTING** others to the Savior with your lips and your life? Are you sharing the incredible **DISCOVERY** of eternal life? Then and only then can you truthfully say that you are **DEVELOPING** in the Christian life.

I know of no school or seminar or seminary where you can attend and learn the lessons from God's Word in the way that you will when you begin to share your faith with others. You will be challenged to dig deeper in God's word than ever before. You will find yourself on your knees seeking guidance from God and Power from the Holy Spirit of God. But you will never have the burning desire to win souls for Jesus until you, like the disciples in today's passage, take time out of your life and your pursuits to spend time with Jesus. Once you have spent a day with Jesus, life takes on new meaning; old things don't hold you in their sway.....