

DESPERATE: Desperate Inviters

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John 1:35-46; Luke 5:17-25

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Come and see
 My granddaughters must say that to me at least a dozen times every time I see them.
 Come and see my bedroom, Grandma.
 Come and see what I drew.
 Come and see the butterflies.
 Come and see my new outfit.
 Come and see.
 We say it too don't we?
 Come and see.
 Every time we have something of interest, excitement or great truth.
 Come and see.
 Come and see our new house.
 Come and see our new baby.
 Come and see the show it is great.
 Come and see the speaker - she is amazing.
 Come and see.
 People have been inviting others to come and see for thousands of years.

Look with me this morning at John 1:35-46

Let's see what John wrote in his gospel that he felt was worth coming and seeing.

Read 35-39

Jesus tells his first disciples to Come and See where he is staying
 Come and spend time with him – get to know him better.

Read 39-41

Notice that the first thing, the very first thing that Andrew does after spending time with Jesus is invite his brother to come and see Jesus.

Read 42-46

Philip – one of Jesus first disciples invites Nathanael to come and see
 Come and meet Jesus for yourself
 And because he does, Nathanael becomes one of Jesus disciples also.

Notice that neither Philip nor Andrew forced Nathanael or Peter to come and see Jesus.
 They didn't ask them if they knew the Torah completely.
 They didn't whip out a spiritual tract and explain the four step procedure to them to become a Christian.
 They didn't quote all kinds of scripture to them.
 They simply said, "COME AND SEE."

In fact, every time you will see Andrew in John's gospel, he will be bringing someone to meet Jesus.

Andrew does not ever get the recognition that his brother Peter will receive but that doesn't deter Andrew from completing his calling.

He was called to bring others to Jesus, to invite them to meet the Messiah, to have them come and see and **Andrew is committed to that calling.**

He is committed to pointing others to the one who can change them.

Do you know that statistics say that most people don't attend church because they have never been invited.

No one has ever said to them, "COME AND SEE."

Being an Andrew does not involve fancy evangelism methods or memorizing lots of Scripture so you never make a mistake.

Being an Andrew means getting others to Jesus. "Come and see."

Allow Jesus to make the transformation.

You just need to be faithful to invite them to Jesus.

In Luke there is a story of four friends who are so determined, so desperate for their friend to meet Jesus that they dig up a person's roof.

Look with me at Luke 5:17-25

The men tried to get in the front door. But it was too crowded.

So they said to themselves, "We didn't come all the way out here to be disappointed. One way or another, we're going to bring our friend to the Lord."

When Jesus saw what the men did, **he saw their faith.**

He saw that these men believed in Him so strongly that were willing to go to extreme desperate measures to bring their friend to Him.

Now here is the lesson for us:

The best way to help a friend in need is to bring them to the Savior.

The greatest act of friendship you can show another is to usher them into the presence of YOUR best friend - the Lord Jesus Christ.

How many of you truly and deeply believe in Jesus Christ today?

How many of you believe in Christ so strongly that you are willing to do whatever it takes to bring the people you love closer to Him, to invite them to Come and See?

Your faith in God

can move Him to do powerful things in people's lives.

That's what happens here in Luke 5:20, we're told that 'when Jesus saw the faith of these men, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

The point of this lesson:

When we bring our friends and loved ones to Jesus Christ, remarkable things can happen.

If you have faith in God, if you believe that he has the power to do things that no one else can do, then I encourage you to do all that is within your power to invite your friends and family closer to the Lord, point them to the one person who can change their life.

There are times when we need to wait for an open door for effective ministry.

And there are times when we need to dig through a roof and make the opening ourselves.

Let me give you three steps today that Desperate Inviters can follow:

1) [First you need to: Recognize a Prospect](#)

In John we see that John the Baptist pointed his disciples to Jesus.

Andrew brought his brother, Simon Peter.

Philip introduced Nathanael to Jesus.

Who is that person for you?

Who is it this morning whose name and face came across your mind as you thought about someone who needs to meet Jesus?

A spouse, a friend, a co-worker, a brother or sister, a neighbor.

I want you to take a few moments and think about the person that God is placing on your heart right now.

Perhaps that person has never met Christ.

Perhaps they are paralyzed by something that keeps them from coming to Christ:

Fear of giving up their lifestyle or their friends.

Loneliness, they are afraid of reaching out.

Maybe their sin has blinded them to their need for Christ.

Problems – they are too traumatized to reach out.

Perhaps their circumstances keep them paralyzed from reaching out.

Maybe it is as simple as they have never been invited to meet Christ.

Whatever it might be I want you to just recognize the person God is laying on your heart this morning.

2) [Secondly - Refer a Person](#)

After you recognize who God is laying on your heart - the next step is to invite them to meet the person of Jesus.

John the Baptist did it: “Behold the Lamb of God.”

Andrew did it: “We have found the Messiah.”

Philip did it: “We have found Him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote.”

And you can do it - Point them to Jesus.

You must refer them to a person, to **the** person - Jesus Christ.

Programs are good, but they do not change lives.

A moral lifestyle is good, but it does not change a person internally.

Church is good. SS is good. But they do not change lives.

We need to point people to Jesus because he alone changes lives.

There is a story told of a little boy who was invited to attend SS for the first time.

When he got home his mom asked him, “Who was your teacher?” He replied, “I don’t know but she must have been Jesus’ grandmother. She did not talk about anyone else!”

We need to be that committed to introducing others to Jesus.

You can use the same words that Philip used to begin pointing people to Jesus: COME AND SEE

Come and see the Rabbi, the Great Teacher who has the answers to life's problems.

Come and see the Messiah, the King of Israel, the one who came to provide hope for His people.

Come and see Jesus, the Son of Man, the one who lived the sinless life and died as a criminal for our sins so we would be forgiven.

Come and see the Son of God, God robed in the flesh.

Point them to Jesus and then tell them who he is!

And lastly

3) Remember a Purpose

Remember the WHY.

Why do we need to invite our family and friends to come and see Jesus?

We need to:

Because Jesus is the only way.

Scripture tells us that He is the Way the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ.

There is no hope of eternal life outside of Jesus.

We need to:

Because scripture commands us to.

II Corinthians 5:18 says, "Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also."

In Matthew Jesus gives the Great Commission which tells us to go and make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you.

That commission is given to everyone and notice that it is called a commission not a suggestion.

God holds you personally responsible for telling others about him.

It is our job, our responsibility to invite others to Christ.

But there is another reason WHY we point others to Christ.

Because Jesus changes lives.

He takes Cephas and makes him Peter.

Jesus takes the sinner and makes him a saint.

Jesus takes the alcoholic and makes him sober.

Jesus takes the prostitute and makes her clean.

Jesus takes the spiritually sick and makes them well.

Jesus takes the spiritually blind and makes them see.

Jesus takes the unclean and makes them pure.

Jesus takes the paralyzed and makes them walk.

Jesus changes lives.

I believe that is why Andrew had to tell Simon and Philip had to tell Nathaniel because they recognized that Jesus changes lives.

And when Jesus changes your life, you want to tell others.

You want to invite them to meet Jesus.

You want your family to know.

You want others to know.

You want to tell people about Jesus.

We have the greatest news in the world, we have received the greatest gift in the world, and sharing it is the greatest kindness you can show to anyone.

Nothing else you do will ever matter as much as helping people establish an eternal relationship with God.

William James said, “The best use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.”

In our Administrative Assistant ANN’s, office is a little sign that says:

Just one more soul!

I love that sign. Every time I see it I am reminded that there is One More person I need to invite to meet Jesus – their soul depends on it.

I invite you and encourage you to:

Start looking around your mission field (your life) and pray,

“God, who have you put in my life that I need to invite to meet Jesus?”

Is there One More you need to reach for Jesus?