

Witnesses to Jesus

John 1:29–42

1. Who is Jesus?

In these verses Jesus is described in five different ways:

a) The Lamb of God (vv 29,36)

Jesus is God's sacrificial lamb provided by him for us. He has carried our sin and pain (Isaiah 53).

b) The Son of God (v 34)

Here is God in human form. God comes to be with us, leaving the intimate relationship with his Father to live on earth.

c) Giver of the Holy Spirit (v 33)

Jesus equips us to serve and follow him. His gift of the Holy Spirit is given so that we can enjoy God's empowering presence.

d) Rabbi (v 38)

The teaching of Jesus was different to that of the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus taught with authority.

e) The Messiah (v 41)

The Jews expected that the Messiah would save or deliver the people of God from oppression. He would be a liberator. Andrew must have sensed that he was in the presence of a man who could do just that.

2 Gaining their attention

Jesus aroused the curiosity and excitement of both John the Baptist and the first disciples. John's exclamation 'Behold the Lamb of God!' caught the interest of the two disciples.

Jesus' invitation to them to follow him to where he was staying was a sensitive way of allowing them to talk further. It is worth asking whether our lives, both individually and corporately, have the capacity to arouse curiosity about Jesus.

Jesus had an authority and a presence that stirred Andrew deeply. In his excitement he simply had to tell his brother to come and see too! Jesus dealt perceptively with Simon Peter. He could see his potential as a future leader of the church. Likewise he could no doubt see his potential for getting things wrong and for running away in fear. Yet Jesus affirmed and encouraged him, calling him the 'rock'. Imagine what effect this would have had on Peter.

In a similar way Jesus invites us to share in his work and trusts us to be his representatives. What a vote of confidence that is to weak and vulnerable people like us!

Story of Albert McMakin. We can't all be Billy Grahams or Simon Peters, but we can all be Andrews. There are three things we can all do without special training or gifts. We can:

a) Invite

Andrew went to his brother and said, 'Come and see the person I have just met.'

No doubt Andrew's description made Simon Peter want to meet Jesus for himself. Is there a church event that you could tell your friends about and invite them to?

b) Share

How would you describe Jesus to someone who knew nothing about him? Prepare your testimony for use when opportunity arises.

c) Be

It's not just *telling* other people the Good News. It's *being* the Good News. If we have Jesus in our lives, people will notice and want to know more. People will notice the things we do, as well as the things we don't do.

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John 1:29-42 (NIV)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'

³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

³² Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.

³³ I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.

³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.

⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).