**Hearing the Call (John 1:35-42)**

***35****The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,****36****and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”****37****The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.****38****Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?”****39****He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.****40****One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus[*[*k*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+1&version=ESV#fen-ESV-26074k)*] was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.****41****He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ).****42****He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).*

 The Lord is saying to us, “Come and see where we are going.”

 Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we speak today about hearing Jesus’ invitation. God calls us to Christ – but that call must be heard and answered. Our topic for today is exactly about the answer to that calling, taken from the passage above. The Lord is asking the new followers, “What are you looking for?” And they answer, “Where are you staying?” The Lord answers back, “Come and see.” Today we’re going to examine just where it is that the Lord is taking every believer… Let’s talk, then, about the Lord’s invitation.

 We are all invited to follow the Lord Jesus and to know our new identity in Him. The Scripture passage establishes John the Baptist’s primary role, which was to guide the people to the Messiah. For that reason, two of his disciples are caused to follow Jesus. When the Lord saw them following, He turned to them, as if God was turning back to His people, given that the same word for “turning” in the Old Testament was used to describe God turning back toward helping Israel, and asked them an important question. It was as if God was asking Adam in the Garden of Eden, “Where are you now? What are you doing?” In this case, the Second Adam (Jesus Himself) was invited the descendants of the first Adam (who were under Law and sin) to follow Him (Jesus) and be renewed through their obedience to the Second Adam instead of continuing in obedience to the First’s rebellion, fear, and lack of repentance.

 The Lord also said, “What do you seek?” When they answered Him and followed Him, Simon Peter wound up meeting Christ and receiving his calling. He was going to be a Rock for the Lord – (rock being the meaning of both Petros and Cephas). Jesus gave Simon a new identity – and he, even when we take into consideration the greatness of Paul the Apostle, became one of the most well-known of all the Apostles.

 For example, the calling of Christ is akin to an invitation to a trip in which all expenses are already paid for, all needs are already slated to be met, but the details of both are not revealed ahead of time. So, for example again, a missionary that had gone to serve in Iran once answered a question about how it was that he received a call to serve there. His answer was, “I was not called to remain where I am, but I had a command to go.”

 Today, it may be that you are following the Lord and you have asked Him as to where you are going. It may be that He has answered you and said, “Come and see.” Where, however, are you in that process? Have we understood that where the Lord stays is more of a state of being rather than just a location? Have we comprehended that the work of the Lord happens as we travel this road of life? And afterwards, we have the second important reality – the Lord has said to us, “You are so and so, the son/daughter of this or that one – now you will be called my son/daughter.” Have we taken stock of this truth? In other words, the Lord invites us to be in His process as we travel the road of life. The Lord changes our identity when we encounter Him and known Him.

 Again, we are all invited to follow the Lord Jesus and to know our new identity in Him. The Lord is saying to us, “Come and see where we are going.” The Lord Bless You All. Amen.