

Four Portraits, One *Savior*



That you may
have *life*

Come and See

John 1:35-46

- *Who was “John”? Why are the first four books of the NT referred to as the “gospels”?*

“Gospel” – “good news,” “good message.” Mark 1:14-15.

- A. Author – John the disciple of the Lord: St Irenaeus. “Against Heresies.” 130AD.*
- B. Apostle John – one of the 12 (not John the Baptist).*
- C. Fisherman by trade - partner w his brother, James, his father, Zebedee, and Peter. (Mark 1:19-20),*
- D. Refers to himself in the 3rd person as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 21:20) or “anonymously” (1:35, 40).*
- E. Only disciple at foot of cross; with Jesus’s mother;*



1. Jesus had a **genuine interest** in people. He invited people “in.” In the process, he revealed the one, true, God whose love was so great that Jesus would one day “write it” through his death on a cross.

A. Jesus **turned** to see them. V38.

B. Jesus **initiated** conversation. V38-39

C. Jesus **invited them** into His “space.” V39

D. Jesus **gave them his time**. V39.

- What if John the Baptist had never spoken about Jesus in v 36?
- What if Jesus had not initiated conversation in v38? Or spent the afternoon with them in v 39?
- What if Philip had never told Nathaniel in V 45?



Can you relate?





What if this is the way most Christ-followers do life?

Would you agree: The violence and rudeness in our society (and the negativity about Jesus) is impacting the willingness of believers to invite people to “come and see.”

- *Carlsbad, Ca. 2024. “Volunteer police chaplains were instructed not to pray in Jesus name at official events. City manager stated, “Using the name “Jesus” was “harassing,” “hostile,” and elevated one religion above another. Chaplains could pray using any other generic terms for God, just not JESUS.” City Manager Bans 'Jesus' from Prayers, Says It's Harassing, Hostile to Use Name: Report - Patriot Project*
- *Houston, Texas (May, 2025) – Teacher Silenced for Prayer.*
- *Pew Research – Support for Christian Prayer - 2025 Americans deeply split over prayer.*
 - *52% - favor allowing public school prayers to refer to Jesus*
 - *22% - strongly oppose. 27% - strongly favor.*



- *Scripture prophecies of the times we are in.*
- *Matt. 24:12 "Because lawlessness is increased, **most people's love will grow cold.** (NAU)*
- *2 Tim. 3:1-4 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. **For [people] will be loves of self... rather than lovers of God.** (NAU)*
- *Rev. 2:4-5 'But I have this against you, that **you have left your first love.** ⁵ 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place-- unless you repent.*
- *Heb 10:24-25 and let us consider **how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,** ²⁵ not **forsaking our own assembling together,** as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*



2. We are “image-bearers” of a relational, good God, revealed in Jesus. We are **designed so we can know him and invite others to know Him.**
- Gen. 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image, according to Our likeness**; ...²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the **image of God** He created him; **male and female He created them.** (NAU)
 - “In our image, ... our likeness” – **so we can know Him:**
 1. Moral beings; conscience. Rom 2:15
 2. Free will. Gen 2; Deu 30:19
 3. Capacity for love, mercy, and justice. Micah 6:8, Zech 7:9, Lev 19:18
 4. Capacity for evil, hate, death and destruction.
 5. **Relational.** Gen 2:18.



3. *There is something about the name of Jesus that defies explanation. Words cannot communicate the impact He makes on lives.*

- *Early church fathers held that that every disciple other than John suffered martyrdom. Tertullian. Eusebius.*

A. *Andrew* - We have found the *Messiah*. V41.

B. *Simon*. Becomes the “rock” upon which the Church will be built. Matt 16:16-19.

C. *Phillip* - We have found him of whom *Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote* V 45.

D. *Nathaniel* - *the sceptic*.

- *How do you know me? V48*

- *Son of God. V49. Even Jesus is surprised. V 51.*



- *The Scriptures set the name of Jesus, apart, unlike any other name in Biblical history.*
- Acts 4:12-13, “And there is **salvation in no one else**; for there is **no other name** under heaven ... by which we must be saved. 13 Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated men ... they were **amazed** and began to recognize them as **having been with Jesus.**”
- Luke 10:17, “The seventy returned with joy, saying... even the demons are subject to us **in your name.**”
- Phil 2:9-11, “... God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the **name which is above every name...**”
- John 18:4-6 “So Jesus ... said to them, “Whom do you seek”? They answered, “Jesus the Nazarene.” Jesus said, “I am He.” ... So when he said, “I am he,” they drew back and **fell to the ground.**”



*What God said about the coming Messiah, Jesus, **has been fulfilled!***

- *Isa. 53:10-12 But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring [believers], He will prolong His days, **And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.** ¹¹ As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and **be satisfied** [the cross was worth it to Jesus]; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will **justify the many** [believers], As He will bear their iniquities. ¹² **Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great,** And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death [the cross], And was **numbered with the transgressors** [sinners are we all]; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors. (NAU)*





Andrew **brought** his brother Simon to Jesus. Will you be an “Andrew” to someone in 2026?

- *Jn. 1:41-42 He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah " (which translated 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 is translated Peter). (NAU)*
- *Rom 5:8. And hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*



Call to action:

1. *Do you think we need to **rekindle our interest** in those around us? What if you befriended someone you have previously ignored? Ask God to reveal that person to you. How can you be a friend to them? Ask God for an opportunity to “invite them” to “come and see.”*
2. *Ask God to give you the name of someone you can pray for as we enter the New Year. **Make a commitment with God to lift their name, daily, to the Father for the month of January.** If God leads you to do so, drop them a note of the gift of prayer you are giving them.*
3. *How can you be an “Andrew” to someone God will bring across your path? Will you continue to pray about who you will bring to Jesus in 2026?*