

BRINGING PEOPLE TO JESUS

John 1:35-42

Most of us have never heard of Little Bilney or Edward Kimball, but they both were used by God to bring people to Jesus who impacted the world for Christ, Hugh Latimer and D.L. Moody. Andrew brought Peter to Christ. How can we be used of God to bring people to Jesus?

1. CHALLENGE PEOPLE TO SEEK JESUS – John 1:38

- As John the Baptist witnesses again to Jesus as the Lamb of God, two of John's disciples follow Jesus. John, as our example, is pointing people to Jesus not himself. Being a Christian is all about following Jesus. Jesus asks His would-be followers, "What are you seeking?" This is a great question to ask everyone as well as ourselves.
- Many seek their own comfort, ease, pleasure, happiness, etc. They seek wealth, security, and contentment in the lusts and things of this present world. But nothing of this world will ultimately satisfy or give lasting joy – John 12:25; 1 John 2:15-17. We spend our lives looking for love in all the wrong places. Only in right relationship with God through faith in Jesus do we begin to find true and ultimate joy – Matthew 13:44-46. Jesus Christ is the great treasure, the supreme security, and the Giver of Everlasting Joy.
- What are you seeking? Who are you seeking? If it is not Jesus you will have nothing. But this question also reminds us that Jesus is not promising worldly wealth, health, and "success." – Matthew 8:19,20. He promises Himself as our True Joy – John 10:10.

2. INVITE PEOPLE TO SPEND TIME WITH JESUS – John 1:39

- Jesus is asked by the would-be disciples or followers "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Jesus invites them to "Come and See." They honor Jesus with the title Rabbi or Master. But Jesus calls them to come spend time with Him and see who He is in action. By spending time with Jesus they come to believe He is the Messiah – the Christ – verse 41 – "We have found the Messiah!"
- Spending time with Jesus is still necessary! Jesus invites us to come and see Him in the Bible – verse 45. Jesus invites us daily to spend time with Him in the Word and prayer. Following Jesus is to be a growing relationship.
- Followers of Jesus also should invite others to "come and see" how we live and what Jesus means in our lives. Are you living a life worthy of imitating? – 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 4:9.

3. ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO SEE THEMSELVES AS JESUS SEES THEM – John 1:42

- Jesus sees us for who we will be in Him, not just who we are now. It is not just Peter. It is Andrew and us too. The first thing Andrew does when He follows Jesus is go tell his brother Simon. Andrew is not a well-known disciple, but he impacted the world especially through Peter. Andrew is always involved in the Gospel of John bringing people to Jesus – John 6:8,9; John 12:20-22. What a wonderful legacy! Little Bilney and Edward Kimball are part of the Andrews of church history.
- Jesus sees Simon as Peter, a rock, and renames him accordingly. Simon was anything but a rock in the gospels. He was often impulsive, headstrong, proud, and unstable! – Matthew 14:28-33; 16:21-23. Simon says he will go with Jesus to the death and then denies Him three times that

very night – John 13:36-38. But Peter is the one God uses to open the gospel gates at Pentecost and then to the Gentiles. Peter will be a rock for the Church in his confessing Jesus as Son of God, and in spreading the gospel to the nations. Peter will write his epistles which are resounding words today for the Church, especially in hard times.

- Jesus sees you too. Not only for who you are now, but for what you will be in HIM. We are all sinners, lost, and hopeless without Christ. We are broken people living in a broken world. But in Christ Jesus we are new creations, declared righteous by faith alone in Christ alone for His glory alone – 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:10. Don't let the world define who you are. Begin to see as God sees – 1 Samuel 16:7. We are part of God's forever family, His precious children, His dwelling place, and His eternal inheritance – John 1:12. We are not under condemnation but have life eternal – John 5:24. We will reign with Christ forever and ever!

Concluding Applications:

- What or whom are you seeking?
- Are you spending time with Jesus in His Word and with His people?
- Is your life one that points others to Jesus?
- How do you see yourself and others? Only as the world sees, or do you begin to see as Jesus sees?