

Read John 1:35-51

1. **Read verses 35-37:** "Come and see Jesus" is the invitation throughout this passage in John. "Come and see Jesus" is not a one-time encounter but a long journey. And people along the journey are coming at different points. First, to come and see Jesus is to come and consider what Christians have said about Jesus (just as two of John the Baptizer's disciples considered what he said about Jesus - Behold, the Lamb of God!). What are the first and primary things to consider when we are coming along to see Jesus for the first time or even for the millionth time?

We must first consider the testimony and words of Scripture in the Old and New Testaments. We must also consider the breadth and history of the Church, in the diversity, dialogue, debates, and international perspectives of Christians in how they understood and lived out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Considering the topic of Jesus is a vast and universal endeavour that cannot be exhausted. And so, we must be patient, humble, serious, and gracious in our own approach and study of Jesus Christ.

2. **Read verses 38-39:** "Come and see" also means come and see for yourself. The first two followers of Jesus went to see where Jesus lived. How are we today to witness and see for ourselves how "Jesus lived"?

Again, we can encounter Jesus in the pages of the Bible. But also today, we can encounter Jesus in the lives and experiences of other Christians. And to account the sufferings and the sacrifices of the Church worldwide. How Christians behave, how the Church lives her faith today, are all imperfect, and are at times very corrupt and hypocritical. This is why we weigh out Christian behaviour and living against the unchanging teachings and recorded testimony of Jesus' life in the Bible. Both are important, but one will not make sense or have any ultimate meaning without the other (i.e. there is no real meaning to good and loving behaviour apart from the biblical rubric of Christlike sacrifice).

3. **Read verses 40-46:** "Come and see" means come and see with others. How is it beneficial and better to come alongside others if we are to see Jesus?

Christianity is a communal enterprise. To live in life of Jesus is to live in His Body, the Church, and to be connected to her vital parts and the flow of life in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and with the whole cloud of witnesses. In other words, there is no way to have or to grow up and mature in Christian love and holiness unless we are with other Christians who are together going and seeing Jesus for themselves.

4. **Read verses 47-49:** "Come and see" means come and be seen. How could we foster a Christian community and a gracious space where we would feel safe, welcomed, and embraced, to be openly seen, known, loved, and supported?

Concretely, we come with our own questions to ask, and welcome others to ask difficult questions. And not being quick to give an answer but to first listen and to be present. We must then be humble and be open to admit wrong in our prejudices or limitation in our own perspectives. And so, we become open to others, to listen to them, to learn from them, and to engage with each other who will be different or even disagreeable. This does not mean that we can never challenge each other. We challenge each other by outdoing each other in good works, being slow to speak and being swift to listen, being indebted to each other in love and life.

5. **Read verse 50-51:** "Come and see" means come and see greater things. What is it about Jesus Christ that gives you hope for this moment, hope for the future, and a perspective of God's open world for you and me?

Answers will vary. But it is an invitation to wonder together and to share openly about our deepest longings and aspirations as Christians who are together struggling in this pandemic while also remaining faithful and obedient with our own callings and vocations in this stage of our lives.