

SERMON: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

John 1:40-42

(40) One of the two which heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. (41) He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. (42) And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, He said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona; Thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

Introduction

Let's begin by looking at the context of this text because it can be seen from many angles. The first angle tells us that things just do not happen in isolation. There is a sequence of events. Bad things do not happen in isolation and good things do not happen in isolation. So, let's look at the sequence of events that led to our text.

John the Baptist –John the Baptizer- is telling everyone that the Messiah has arrived. He called Jesus the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. He literally said stop following me and start following Jesus. Andrew heard John's words and began to follow Jesus. He wanted to check Jesus out and see where He was staying. Sometimes it is good to see for yourself and get a reasonable amount of facts before making a decision.

After he was convinced that Jesus was the "Real Deal" he introduced his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. A question: Who have you introduced to Jesus? Just think about it. If each one of us, including myself, could bring just one person to Christ within a year and they would join Antioch, our membership would double in twelve months.

We need more Andrews. For those that know the Bible, and most of us do, Peter had more public impact than Andrew. Andrew was also the one who found the little boy with the three fish and five barley muffins. It's okay to bring someone to Christ who is more gifted than you and will have more impact than you. Some people's role is to be an Andrew. Andrew was a "bringer" and an "introducer."

The second angle is that when Jesus met Simon Peter, He immediately saw Peter's potential. There was more to Peter than met the eye. This is really where I will focus. Jesus saw this impulsive, sometimes violent, quick-to-cuss person as one who could

become as solid as a rock. Jesus knew Peter would deny Him three times, but Jesus also saw him standing like the Rock of Gibraltar on the Day of Pentecost. Therefore, Jesus gave him the nick name, Rock. He had not become that rock yet, but Jesus knew it would come to pass. His nick name became a true description of him. Jesus saw what Peter could become.

Jesus had and has the good practice of seeing the good in others. He sees what we can become before we see it. As we celebrate those who have done well academically, remember, no matter what you have accomplished, Jesus sees you accomplishing much more. The sky is the limit as long as we put God first. For those who have not yet accomplished all that you wanted to achieve, keep praying and studying. There is more in you than meets the eye. Jesus also sees your great potential. To repeat, Jesus sees good things in us that we do not see.

Peter was a grown man and most of our honorees are children, teens, and young adults, but the principle still applies. Jesus sees your great potential. Allow me to use some common figures of speech to illustrate my points. This is what Jesus sees when He sees many of us.

Exposition

1. The Sparkle Of A Diamond In The Rough.

(Needs To Be Cut And Polished.)

2. The Apple Orchard In A Little Apple Seed.

(Needs To Be Planted In A Fertile Soil.)

3. The Beautiful Pearl In An Infected Oyster.

(Needs Persistence And Determination.)

Closing Thoughts

Give God your best and He will make your best better. Give your best to the Master and He will craft a master piece for you.

This should be everyone's prayer:

“Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice and let me sing always only for my king.
Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own. It shall be Thy royal throne.
It shall be Thy royal throne.”

Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory.

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