

From the Pulpit of the Japanese Baptist Church of North Texas  
December 20, 2016

Come and See

John 1:35-42

1:35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,  
1:36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the  
Lamb of God!"

1:37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

1:38 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?"

1:39 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.

1:40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was  
Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

1:41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have  
found the Messiah" (which means Christ).

1:42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "So you  
are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means  
Peter).

Today is the last Sunday in the church calendar; it's called "Feast of  
Christ the King" and from next coming Sunday it'll be Advent. This  
year, we have decided that four Advent Sundays be the evangelistic  
services, and we are trying to invite our family, friends, and  
acquaintances hopefully every week and possibly one of the worship  
services. Then, I'm going to talk about this today.

## 1. See

In the previous paragraph we read that John the Baptist pointed Jesus Christ and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world !” (John 1:29) Also in today’s verses, John said again, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” Then his two disciples followed behind Jesus. Jesus noticed them and looked back, saying, “What are you seeking?” They answered, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” Jesus said to them, “Come and you will see.”

This conversation sounds weird to us, who doesn’t know this manner. At that generation, when people become the disciples of someone called “Rabbi,” they have this kind of conversation between the teacher. In ancient times, people lived in the house of their master and disciple; in Japan, before the World War II, people went out to an apprenticeship and lived with the merchant family if they want to learn business, and to be a craftsman they lived in the house of their master and spent day and night to learn the skills. Even in present time, Japanese traditional performing arts have the same manner.

Two asked Jesus, “Where are you staying?” It meant that they wanted to be the disciples of Jesus Christ, and Jesus’ answer, “Come and you will see,” meant that He accepted two guys to be His disciples. They were originally the disciples of John the Baptist, but at that moment they became the disciples of Jesus.

The word, “see” in Jesus’ words, “Come and see”, has the deep meaning. In John 1:14, it says, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” “The Word” is the Son of God, Jesus Christ. This verse explains that through Son of God became

human, mankind can see God's glory; God's glory is too holy to be touched by human beings, and all mankind cannot see His glory by rights. However, Son of God became man so that man could see the glory. This is the amazing grace and deeper truth.

This amazement is described in 1 John 1:1; "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—" This is more than amazement, the impression over that mankind could see and even touch God, through the Son of God became human and lived among mankind.

We call it "Incarnation" that Son of God became human. This word was taken from John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh." The ancient rulers forced people to worship themselves as the "Incarnate of God," but no one could be the incarnation of God because of their own sinful forms. The one and only Son of God is the incarnated God, and showed us the glory of God; moreover, we are also able to see God, in addition to the people of Jew two thousand years ago, and the disciples actually encountered Jesus and directly saw or touched Jesus. We are also given the same privilege.

Likewise English, "to see" in Greek has the overtone of "meet," "know," or "understand." Today we don't directly "watch" Jesus Christ, but we can "see", "meet", "know", and "understand" God through Jesus Christ. Jesus is still alive and He makes this possible by the Holy Spirit.

Christmas is the day that God became human. The first day that mankind see God. “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Even the baby Jesus shined over the wise men with glory of God, then how Holy He was when He worked in the power of God? The cross of Jesus glorifies the Son of God, and full of grace and truth that save mankind. He glorified God through the Resurrection and Ascension, and in perfect glory He will come again. In this Christmas season, we may meditate the Word of God and “see” Jesus Christ by faith.

## **2. Come**

But in order to “see” Jesus Christ and God through Jesus Christ, there is one condition. That is: we come to Jesus.

Jesus said, “come and see”. This is not a double order form that expresses two orders. It means, come then you will see, which is an order and a promise as is written in Matthew 7:7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Jesus promises that those who ask, seek and knock will be given, will find and will be opened. Likewise, “come and see” means “come, and you will see”. This is a promise, meaning that if we go to Jesus, we will know who He is and we will see God through Jesus. Therefore, in Colloquial Japanese Bible, it is translated as “come” and “then you will see”.

“Come, and you will see” also reversibly means that if we don’t come to Jesus, we will not see Him. John the Baptist is known to have a lot of disciples. But upon hearing John saying “Behold, the Lamb of

God!”, only two disciples followed him. As these two disciples met Jesus and heard him talk, they were convinced that Jesus was the Messiah. But other disciples did not know that Jesus was the Messiah. It is the same to us that if we don’t go to Jesus, we will not be able to see Him. If you don’t ask, you will not be given, if you don’t seek, you won’t find, and if you don’t knock, the door will not open.

Faith that Bible teaches us is not such a thing that discourages us not to have any requests or seek, or encourage us to just accept whatever will happen. The believers in the Bible sought for God enthusiastically and sought for salvation in pain. Christians do not let the desire take over themselves but they don’t live without any desires, either. Those who believe in God seek for the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, as well as they hope that as many people as possible will be saved and they pray for them. Most importantly, they keep their desire to be cleansed throughout their life and it never vanishes. Faith is a gift, but it is not a penny from heaven. We need to have a time to study, ask when we have questions, and keep praying until the truth in Christ is realized. We receive faith in response to our concrete requests.

God repeatedly call us to return to Him. Jesus invites us to come to Him many times. What do you respond to Him? Some people postpone the final decision of faith, saying they have too many things they don’t understand. If you have to know everything about Jesus Christ to go to Him, then no one can go to Him. Jesus did not say, “know me and come”. When you take a first step of faith, which is exemplified by “come and see”, then you will get to know Jesus very well. We would like to go to Jesus and get to know Him as the two

disciples.

### **3. Invite**

Two disciples went to meet Jesus and knew that he was Messiah. One of them was Andrew. Andrew said to his brother Simon “I met Messiah” In this phrase (verse 41), there is “found his own brother Simon”, but it did not mean he met his brother accidentally. It means Andrew understood that Jesus was Messiah as he listened to Jesus. Andrew first called Jesus “Rabbi”, but now “Messiah”. So he wanted to introduce his brother Simon to Jesus; therefore, he tried to find Simon, and finally found Simon.

If you know Jesus, you should understand Andrew’s feeling. You must think that you would like to introduce this great person to your family, friends, and others. Evangelism begins from this feeling. If Christians do not have this feeling, evangelism becomes an event or a program. The father of Rev. Rick Warren served as a carpenter to build churches. On his deathbed, he said, “I’ve got to save one more for Jesus! I’ve got to save one more for Jesus! One more for Jesus! One more for Jesus!”. Pastor Rick said that he heard God’ calling through his father’s last words and he worked hard for evangelism.

However, how can we lead “one more person” to salvation? It is not difficult at all. As Andrew “brought Simon to Jesus”, we should bring our family and friends to Jesus. Jesus is everywhere the word of God is spoken. It means to bring them to the worship service at churches or the Bible study meetings at homes. Jesus said to Andrew “Come, and you will see”, and Andrew said same thing to Simon “Come, and you will see” and brought him to Jesus. As Jesus met

Simon, Jesus will meet the people whom we bring. Jesus said to Simon “You shall be called Cephas (Peter)”. Jesus will convert the person to new existence and give the person new life and new mission.

A church in Japan, it takes about a year from the beginner’s class to the Baptismal class. Christians assist the seeker by attending classes together with them. With the seekers, Christians take care of them one on one. Not only saying “Why don’t you go to the class?” but also they bring them and go there together. This is the reason why many people were baptized at the church.

From the next week, four “Advent Worship Services” will begin. “Come and see” We shall remember this word of Jesus and bring “one” to Jesus. Let bring them to the beginners class and Baptismal class and help them to seek the Savior.

**(Prayer)**

Dear Father, when you sent your Son to this world, the shepherds and three wise men visited baby Jesus. They were filled with joy when they saw Jesus. Simeon and Anna also met the Savior and were satisfied. Then, we also met Jesus. There were Christians who prayed for us come to Jesus and know the salvation. In this time, help us become the Christians who bring “one more” to the Advent worship services. In the name of Lord Jesus, Amen.