

## 2012.2 Come and See

John 1:43-51

“Come and See...” “Come and See....” Not “See and Come.”

The verb “to see,” in various forms is the key verb in this text. Here it seems to mean come and physically see, but also to see, to observe this Jesus in such a way that you progressively come to know him. Previously, Jesus has invited two of John’s disciples (John 1:39), “Come and you will see.” Philip, when Nathaniel speaks of Jesus’ origins derogatorily, does not try to argue faith or apologetics with his friend. Following Jesus’ model, Philip invites him, “Come and see” (John 1:46).

Few people will be argued or even debated into faith in Christ. And many want to “see” first and then “come.” There has always been something personal, experiential and beyond reason about coming and seeing and believing Jesus. Until we come and see, we do not come to see Him. The closer we come and the more we follow, the more of Him we “see.”

The great challenge of the Church today is to live the Christ-life together in such a way that when the seeker or the skeptic comes among us, looking for Christ, he or she actually “sees,” experiences or “meets” Jesus in the life and members of His Church.

Years ago E. Stanley Jones was asked by Gandhi what would convince Gandhi to become a Christian. Gandhi gently replied, “**Become more like the one you claim to follow.**” What or whom in the life of your church would you show the seeker and say, “Come and see Jesus here?” **And, most importantly, in what ways is Christ visible through you?**

In the presbytery I would point to the love God has given this presbytery among its members in recent years as Christ-visible. Increasingly, we are bearing one another’s burdens and sharing each other’s joys... I’d point to the work of God in recently calling three new pastors who seem well-suited to the calling congregations.... I’d point to the volunteerism of so many of you, laboring for the cause of Christ at many levels.... I’d point to the resurging youth and camping ministry. And I’d point to many giving sacrificially of time and money to the work and the mission, to Churches ENGAGING their communities....

Recently, Jody McDevitt attended moderator training in Louisville. When she returned she said that she was so glad to be in Yellowstone Presbytery. Other presbytery moderators were reporting factions wrestling divisively for control or leadership within the presbytery.

Here, we have our disagreements, some of them running quite deeply. But I see Christ in the way we love each other and reach to understand each other and believe the best in each other. Yellowstone Presbytery – a community of Christ-followers in whom we can “see” Jesus. May the Holy Spirit bring Christ visible in us – more and more!