

When this series began back in January I started with a clip from the movie *Alice in Wonderland*...

In the clip, Alice comes to a fork in the road. Alice tells the Cheshire Cat she doesn't care where she goes. That's when the Cheshire cat tells her, ***then it doesn't matter which way you go.***

Since I thought that most of you care about where you are going; and that your **life choices should be determined by where you want to end up**; we spent these last few weeks discovering the journey of a disciple of Jesus. Each week we talked about the choices we make in **centering our life around loving God and loving others.**

Well we've arrived at the end of this portion of the journey, and in a few minutes, some of those who have been journeying with us will stand up front and **declare their choice** to be a disciple of Jesus at Linglestown Life. They will join other disciples of Jesus here at Linglestown Life who have committed to five things:

Being present in worship.

Growing in their faith.

Giving to support our ministry.

Serving others, and finally, what we want to learn today...

Witnessing to their faith in Jesus.

When Jesus issued the invitation to his first disciples, brothers, Peter and Andrew, Jesus said simply, *Come, follow me.* They immediately dropped everything and began following Jesus. They didn't know where the journey would take them; but they knew that they wanted to journey with Jesus.

It wasn't long after the calling of Peter and Andrew that Jesus began inviting more disciples on the journey. One such encounter is found in John's gospel where Jesus calls Philip.

John 1:43-44

Philip was so excited about being invited to follow in the footsteps of Jesus that he had to tell his friend Nathanael.

John 1:45

Philip, like anyone who finds what they are searching for tells everyone! He tweets. He posts it to his wall on Facebook. He takes a 'selfie' with Jesus and posts it on Instagram. Philip has found something/one and he wants everyone to know about it.

I wonder how passionate you are about being on the journey with Jesus? That's one of the simple things about being a **witness**; you **simply tell your story – your story and how God invited you into his story**. And here's the best part about your story; it's your story. And because it is your story, no one can argue against it or say it isn't true- after all it is *your* story.

But even when we tell our story, sometimes the reality sets in.

John 1:46a

Nathanael was certainly a skeptic when it came to what Philip told him about Jesus. Nathanael was going to need more than an invitation from his friend Philip to begin following a rabbi named Jesus.

I imagine that if you are like me, you've told your story of following Jesus, invited a friend of two to join the journey with Jesus, or at least to give church a try. And if you are like me, you probably got a chilly reception to your invitation.

For some of you the thought of being a witness is way outside your comfort zone. After all, you don't have answers to all the questions you have about Jesus, let alone know how to answer all the questions your friend has about God. That can be pretty intimidating and probably the reason that so few disciples of Jesus ever warm to sharing their faith journey with others.

But our journey is not just for us. The journey is for everyone. And our calling is to invite others to join us in following Jesus.

Let me set your mind at ease about being a witness. Your job isn't to drag someone across the line to becoming a disciple of Jesus. Your job isn't even to answer the questions that they have about God. Your job, as a disciple of Jesus, is to simply do what Philip did with Nathanael. And what was it that Philip said to Nathanael, **Come and see**.

Come and see. Philip didn't convince Nathanael. Philip didn't give Nathanael any answers. Philip just issued a simple invitation, Come and see. The rest was up to Jesus and Nathanael.

We're going to talk about this at length in a few weeks, but one thing we know is that God's Amazing Grace is seeking us out long before we know that we need Jesus. That is why it's not all up to you; God's amazing grace is always calling out to the unconvinced and the uncertain.

But that is also where you come in. You and I as disciples of Jesus are called to say to the unconvinced and uncertain, Come and see.

Think about what those three words mean for your life.

Without ever saying anything, your life, your choices, your words and your actions are an invitation to others, Come and see what Jesus has and is doing in my life.

Whether you realize it or not, every day people around you are hearing and seeing the invitation; Come and see. They look at your choices. They look at your lifestyle. They look at your character. All these things are a witness to Jesus in an unconvinced world.

So when someone sees you loving God and loving others... it is a witness. That's what St. Francis embodied in the statement: *Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words*. Your life is a witness to the Good News found in Jesus. But sometimes you need to use words.

All of us have countless opportunities daily to use words as a witness to Jesus and this journey of faith.

I realize that many people are uncomfortable talking about faith; but if there is any comfort in Philip's example it is that sometimes the best thing we can say is, Come and see.

Come and see is a simple invitation that we can offer to someone to take a step onto the journey of discipleship. It doesn't mean that they have all this faith stuff figured out; after all a disciple doesn't know everything the rabbi knows- a disciple is just a learner. A disciple is taking a step.

So your invitation, Come and see, could be just an invitation to someone to begin reading the Bible. Maybe it is an invitation to attend an event at the church or with your small group.

As disciples of Jesus, we should have but one aim; to issue the invitation Come and see.