

WEEK THREE - FOLLOW (Am I willing to follow?)

Scripture - John 1:35-46

The First Disciples of Jesus

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, **36** and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" **37** The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. **38** When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" **39** He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. **40** One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. **41** He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). **42** He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). **43** The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." **44** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." **46** Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you from Dr. Jones's reflections?
2. Do you think we use labels to put people in boxes? Why or why not?
3. Do you agree with Dr. Jones's claim that the more intimate you know someone (human or God), the more of a mystery they become to you? Why or why not?
4. What is significant about Jesus' invitation to deeper relationship?
 - a. What is significant about the words "come" and "see"?
5. What prevents us from accepting this invitation?
6. How can we continue to develop fresh eyes and fresh ways of talking about God?
7. How do we cultivate "conspiracies of goodness" in our church family? Wider community?