

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

God Revealed

John 1:18-51

John 1:18, No one has seen God at any time. **The only begotten Son**, who is in the bosom of the Father, **He has declared Him**. (*NIV*, the one and only Son, **who is himself God**)

.....
He has **declared** Him. *Declared, revealed = "Rehearsed" Him*

- *He put God on display (John 1:1-2 & 14)*
- *A Soliloquy – a One Man Play*
- *Dean Jones, "St. John in Exile"*

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John 10:30, "I and My Father are one."

- **John 14:9**, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father"
- **Colossians 1:15**, He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
- **Colossians 2:9**, For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily

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*The Gospel of John is **eye witness testimony** of how Jesus **put God on display**...*

- *For all to see... including us*

.....
*We're going to watch **God demonstrated** by Jesus*

- *Street signs, "Men Working"*
- *Gospel of John, "**God Working**"*

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John 1:19, Now this is **the testimony of John**, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "**Who are you?**" (**1:6**, There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.)

- *His reply – It's not about who I am. **It's about who He is.***

Vs. 20-24, He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? **What do you say about yourself?**"

He said: "**I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'**" ' as the prophet Isaiah said." (**40:3**) Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees.

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Many today are supposing to define people they've never met or heard from.

- *Life is a people business. If we care about people, we should learn **what matters to them.***

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Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees.

- *They asked if he was who other people said he was; The Christ, the Messiah, Elijah, the Prophet?*
- *They came prepared to claim he wasn't **who they thought** he thought he was*

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They finally asked the question they should have started with

- **"What do you say about yourself?"**

We live in a world wanting to define people they've never met or asked

- *If you don't agree with them, **they'll accuse you** of being for who they're against*
- *Value people enough to **learn from them who they are***
- ***Begin with questions**, not predetermined judgements*

*When accused of being for the other side, my reply is... **Have we met before?***

- *You could end up in a civil, informative interaction*

Vs. 25-28, And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." These things were done in Bethabara (*Bethany*) beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Why do you baptize outside of our orthodoxy?

- *Why aren't you like us?*

Vs. 26, there stands One among you whom you do not know... (*Yet*)

- *I serve **One who IS greater** than all orthodoxy!*

Vs. 29-31, The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!** This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' I did not know Him; but **that He should be revealed** to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."

"Behold! **The Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!"

- *You can believe that got their attention*
- *If true, it spelled **the end of their temple sacrifice business***

This is He of whom I said, '**After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.**'

- *John is six months older than his cousin, Jesus.*
- *John first recognized Him when they were both in the womb. (**Luke 1:44**)*
- *He is speaking of **His eternal existence***

Vs. 32-34, And John bore witness, saying, "**I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.** I did not know Him, but **He who sent me** (1:6) to baptize with water **said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'** And I have seen and testified that **this is the Son of God.**"

The gospel of John is not a collection of rumors or urban legends.

- *It is the verifiable, eye-witness, first-hand accounts of Jesus*
- *Of what He did and how He lived among us.*

Vs. 35-37, Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "**Behold the Lamb of God!**" The two disciples heard him speak, **and they followed Jesus.**

- *An account of **three consecutive days.***

John the baptizer was not collecting followers to himself (3:30)

- **He was calling people to Jesus**, and pleased to see them go
- God didn't come to raise up celebrities. Beware of them.

Vs. 38-39, Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, **"What do you seek?"** They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" He said to them, **"Come and see."** They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

"What do you seek?" Of course, He knew. **But we don't.**

- Once again, don't assume. **Ask.** He did.
- Let them tell you. It values the people you're seeking to know.

"Come and see." He invited them to find out for themselves.

- God wants us to experience Him personally
- He's not a curriculum to be learned
- He's the Author of life, and He came to share His life **With us.**

Vs. 40-42, One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. **He first found his own brother** Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). **And he brought him to Jesus.** Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, **"You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas"** (which is translated, A Stone).

It's normal to invite the people we love to come and meet Jesus.

- Telling people about Him is great, and many are available
- **Inviting them to come with us to meet Him is the best!**

Like Simon – Jesus knows everything about us too. He knows us by name.

- He's had His eye on us already...
- And He has a bigger identity to add to who we are
- He knows who we were born to be in God's family

Vs. 43-44, The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, **"Follow Me."** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

- Now four days in a row. Things are gathering steam.

"Follow Me." = **"Join Me in the way I am going."**

- He doesn't say **where** He is going, or **what** He'll be doing...
- He does invite us to **join with Him**

Vs. 45-46, Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, **"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"** Philip said to him, **"Come and see."**

- Nathanael's cynical, dismissive reaction didn't deter Philip

Andrew found his brother Simon & Philip found Nathanael

- I think Philip knew Nathanael and his response was not a surprise

"Come and see." *The same thing Jesus said*

- *Maybe it's what we should say too. Come and see for yourself*
- *Don't take anyone else's word for it, & don't trust guesswork*

Vs. 47-49, When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, **"Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."** **"How do you know me?"**

Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, **"I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."** Then Nathanael declared, **"Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."**

***1:18**, No one has seen God at any time. **The only begotten Son**, who is in the bosom of the Father, **He has declared** (revealed) **Him**.

- *I suspect Nathanael said "come and see" to a few folks too*

This cynical, negative man comes with his friend to see who Jesus is for himself

- *Jesus sees him for the first time and commends him for his greatest attribute.*
- *Nathanael, the skeptical inquirer responds with more cynicism*

Jesus replies by revealing He knows everything about him

- *Jesus knows what Nathanael said when no one was there*
- *Nathanael knows only God could know what transpired under that tree*

What does Jesus know about you & me?

- **Everything!!** *From our worst to our best*
- *Like Nathanael, He is really pleased about our best*
- *He gave it to us, and wants to start our relationship there.*

Our greatest source of confidence in life is that God know us, and loves us.

- **Romans 5:8**, God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 1:12, But **as many as received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

Vs. 50-51, Jesus answered and said to him, **"Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."** And He said to him, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."**

Like Nathanael, great things will follow our faith in Christ!

- *He will continue to demonstrate & reveal Himself to us as we live with Him*
- *You & I will have testimonies of His involvement in our life, in great things & small*