

The Gospel of John - 1.h

Three Day series of events

³⁵On the morrow (the first day) again John was standing, and two of his disciples. ³⁶And having looked at Jesus walking, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷And the two disciples heard Him speaking, and they followed Jesus.

Chrysostom: “So it was with Christ. He came to join to Himself the Church; He said nothing, but merely came. It was His friend, John (the Baptist), who put into His the bride's right hand, when by his discourses he gave into His hand the souls of men. He having received them, afterwards so that they departed no more to John who had committed them to Him (Jesus).”

³⁸And Jesus turned, and beheld them following, and said to them, “What seek you?”

Chrysostom: “Hence we are taught, that God does not prevent our wills by His gifts, but that when we begin, when we provide the being *willing*, then He gives us many opportunities of salvation.”

And they said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, being interpreted, Teacher), “where are You staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and see.”

Chrysostom: “Nor was it by their following only that they showed their earnest desire, but by their question also: for when they had not as yet learned or even heard anything from Him, they call Him, Master; thrusting themselves as it were among His disciples, and declaring what was the cause of their following, that they might hear somewhat profitable... And therefore Christ does not tell them the marks of His abode, nor its situation, but rather induces them to follow Him by showing them that He had accepted them...(He) converses with them as with friends, and those who had long been with Him.”

Then they went and saw where He was staying. And they stayed with Him that day; and it was about *the* tenth hour. ⁴⁰Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard *this* from John, and followed Him. ⁴¹This *same* one first finds *his* own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is, being interpreted, the Christ), ⁴²and he led him to Jesus. And having looked at him, Jesus said, “You are Simon, the son of Jonas. You shall be called Kephias” (Peter, which is interpreted, a stone).

Chrysostom: “Andrew, after having tarried with Jesus and learned what He did, kept not the treasure to himself, but hastens and runs quickly to his brother, to impart to him of the good things which he had received. But wherefore has not John said on what matters Christ conversed with them? Whence is it clear that it was for this that they abode with Him? It was proved by us the other day; but we may learn it from what has been read today as well. Observe what Andrew says to his brother; We have found the Messias... For this word, we have found, is the expression of a soul which travails for His presence, and looks for His coming from above, and is made overjoyed when the looked-for thing has happened, and hastens to impart to others the good tidings. This is the part of brotherly affection, of natural friendship, of a sincere disposition, to be eager to stretch out the hand to each other in spiritual things.”

⁴³On the morrow (the second day) Jesus intended to go forth into Galilee; and He finds Philip, and said to him, “Follow thou Me.” ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip finds Nathanael (also known as Bortholomew), and said to him, “We have found *the One of Whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, wrote—Jesus the son of Joseph, Who is from Nazareth.*” ⁴⁶And Nathanael said to him, “Out of Nazareth can there be any good thing?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said concerning him, “Behold, truly an Israelite in whom is no guile.” ⁴⁸Nathanael said to Him, “From what place know You me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called thee, when *you* were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹Nathanael answered, and said to Him, “**Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.**”

⁵⁰Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you underneath the fig tree,’ you believe? You shall see greater things than these.” ⁵¹And He said to him, “Verily, verily, I say to you (*All of you, plural*), henceforth you shall see the heaven having been opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” [Jn. 1:35-51]

1. In the first two days of his ministry John a series of titles are given Christ and then he adds “Son of Man” and a reference to seeing *greater things* pointing to His ascending and being seated at the right hand of power is all promised here at the beginning of John’s Gospel. (Behr, John the Theologian and his Paschal Gospel, pg. 141)

2. Angels Ascending and Descending upon the Son of Man

- a. Jacob’s Ladder (Genesis 28:12)

12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 There above it stood the Lord, and he said: “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying...16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” 17 He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

- b. Connecting Jacob and Nathaniel: Jacob’s name is associated with deceit, he deceives his blind father Isaac into thinking he is he brother Esau the first born (Genesis 27). (Behr)
 - c. The “ladder” being referred to Jesus, who self-identifies as the “Son of Man” the true ladder between heaven and earth, He is the way up and the way down (Behr).
 - d. Jacob describes the place where he dreamed as “This is the house of God, the gate of heaven” (Gen 28:16-17). John the evangelist is transferring what was said about a place now to the person of Christ, who as the ‘Son of Man’ – Christ Himself is not only the Tabernacle or Temple in which God dwells in glory, but is also the true ‘house of God’ Bethel. (Behr, pg 141)

John 2:1 The third day