

# HEAR MINISTRIES

SERMON FOR **SUNDAY, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Text: John 1:29-42a

Sermon recorded by: Tammy Springer

**Let us Pray:** Father, we come this morning to hear Your truth and how it applies in our lives. Clear our thoughts and minds and open our hearts to receive what You have for each one of us. Holy Spirit lead, guide and direct us in all Truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**What are you looking for???** We're all looking for something. It is the great, unspoken truth of being human, isn't it? We wake up each day with this deep, often unnamed, drive. A hunt. We seek success. We seek security. We seek connection, peace or maybe just a single minute to catch our breath. We chase promotions, new relationships, and bigger experiences, all of it driven by the hope that this time, this will be the thing. The thing that finally makes us feel whole.

This quest isn't something new. People in Jesus' day were looking for something, too. Our Gospel reading this morning tells us of a simple scene. Two men, disciples of the fiery prophet John the Baptist, hear their teacher point to a passing man and declare, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (John 29:1) The two men become curious. They begin to follow this Jesus of whom John spoke.

Jesus notices them. He turns. He doesn't start with a sermon. He doesn't issue a command. He doesn't even introduce Himself. He looks right at them – and by extension, right at us – and asks the single most important question of their lives: "What are you seeking?" (John 1:38) Or, in our more common language, "**What are you looking for?**"

The **first question Jesus asks** does not address sins, failures or infidelity. It is not accusatory or hostile. Rather, it **is a question rooted in compassion and love**, calling upon the deepest desires of all people. **It is a question full of hope.** He does not reject the two men. From the start, **Jesus is interested in them.** He draws them out. He gets them to articulate their hopes and dreams. He is willing to listen to them.

These first disciples are caught off guard by Jesus' disarming question. So they ask Him a question. "*Where are you staying?*" Always inviting, Jesus welcomes them into His life. "*Come and see,*" He says to them.

**We are constantly looking for something, seeking something, wanting something.** Something more....beyond ourselves...something that will enable us to live fuller, happier and freer lives. Oh, if only I could afford that new car, that latest gadget, that plasma tv, that overseas vacation, that house on the hill.....oh, boy! I would be so happy, so fulfilled and live in perfect harmony for the rest of my life.....

Really? For how long????

**If we are really honest with ourselves all these things we think we are looking for never seem to fulfill us!** When we get them, we are still looking for something else. Outwardly we may look "successful" as we live affluent lives, but when we do slow down, we sometimes hear ourselves saying, "*I still haven't found what I'm looking for.*"

It appears from our text that John and Andrew (the two men in our Gospel reading) were following Jesus one day because they figured He could help them in their search to get to know God better. Well, Jesus invites them to "*Come and see.*" Their question, "*Where are you staying?*" simply translated means, "*we want to spend some time with you.*" These two men weren't interested in just a brief conversation. **They wanted to get to know Jesus better. Why?**

Well, **first** Jesus was a **Teacher** (in original language means "*rabbi.*") **A Jewish Rabbi was a religious teacher who was the person you would seek out to give you all the answers to life's questions.** If you had deep theological questions or needed counsel, you would go to see the Rabbi. Jesus didn't disappoint them, for He proved Himself to be the greatest teacher that ever lived!

**Secondly**, Jesus was a **Liberator** who would free them from the bondage and oppression they were under by those who ruled the Roman Empire. **Jesus proved Himself to be the only true liberator**, not of two-bit dictators, but **who would deliver from the bondage of sin, rebellion, hopelessness and fear.**

Jesus didn't disappoint these two disciples when He said to them, "*Come and see.*" **He knew they needed a teacher and a liberator, but what they REALLY needed the most was a Savior.** One who would stand in the gap between us and a Holy God. Jesus did this for us by paying for our sin with His blood.

**Imagine Jesus looking at you, with loving kindness, just as He looked at those two men in John's gospel, and asking, "*What are you looking for?*"**

**What is it we really want?** What are we most looking for in the remaining years we have left? **Most people are really looking for love, goodness, truth, peace, happiness, justice, mercy and joy.** We are looking for **meaning**. We are looking for God. **We are looking for Jesus. We just may not know it.**

**That's why Jesus said, "*Come and see.*"** Come and see what He is about. **Get to know Him and find out how much He loves us and cares for us and wants the best for us. How He gave His life for us so that we would no longer have to be separated from a Holy God because of sin.**

If we are willing to "Come and see," we will begin a journey toward God and become servants and friends of Jesus Christ. **He will listen to us and beckon us into a whole new life where our desires will be realized.**

*There is an ancient tale about a young man who was seeking God. He went to a wise old sage for help. "How can I find God?" he asked the old man.*

*The old man took him to a nearby river. Out they waded into the deep water. Soon, the water was up just under their chins. Suddenly, the old man seized the young man by the neck and pushed him under the water. He held the young man down until the young man was flailing the water in desperation. Another minute and he may well have drowned!*

*Up out of the water the two of them came. The young man was coughing water from his lungs and still gasping for air. Reaching the bank he asked the old man, indignantly, "What did that have to do with my finding God??"*

*The old man asked him quietly, "While you were under the water, what did you want more than anything else?"*

*The young man thought for a minute and then answered, "I wanted air. I wanted air more than anything else."*

*The old man replied, "When you want God as much as you want air, you will find Him."*

**The answer** to the question of religion and the purpose of all life **can be found in a person, Jesus Christ.** When we desire His presence as much as we do the air we breathe, then the assurance of His presence and His power will be given to us.

**If we dare to say that we are looking for Him,** that we want to be with Him, that we want to follow Him, **we can trust that He will invite us to join Him on His journey** and lead us to where He lives.

The two men in our Gospel reading for today, John and Andrew, never got over the day they met Jesus for themselves, and they wanted to stay with Him to the end of their lives.

Andrew was so transformed by Jesus that he went to find his brother, Simon Peter, and brought him to Jesus as well (John 1:42a) Did you know that Andrew took the gospel into Greece and was crucified upside down on an X-shaped cross? These men never got over the day they met Jesus and heard Him say, "Come and see."

**So, again, I ask the question, "What are you looking for?"**

Maybe you are here and you are looking for someone to love you unconditionally. **Jesus will love you unconditionally.**

Maybe you are here because you are looking for forgiveness and a new start in life. **Jesus will forgive your sins if you repent, and He will give you a new start.**

Maybe you are here to find the assurance that when you die you will have eternal life. **Jesus can give you that hope and assurance.**

Maybe you are here because you need the fellowship of other believers for support and encouragement. **Because Jesus Christ is here in our midst, that is what Albion Lutheran church is all about.**

If you come to Jesus you will never be disappointed! He wants more than anything else for you to spend time with him.

I recently read about a man who grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He spent many hours (and dollars) at a fast-food restaurant created by James Vaner Horst. Mr. Vander Horst was a deeply committed Christian and left a wonderful imprint on the Christian community in Kalamazoo. You could always depend on Mr. Vander Horst to support any Christian outreach project or mission. Many times, he donated chicken for the youth activities.

He founded Chicken Coop in 1966 and dedicated every store to the Lord's work. On every bucket of chicken and every drink they sold was written the line from C.T. Studd:

*"Only one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."*

According to his family, his parting words were, *"Believe in Jesus and read your Bible!"* He had a wonderful testimony!

Mr. Vander Horst answered Jesus' invitation to *"Come and see,"* and it changed his life!

I am reminded of a poem written by CT Studd. It is one the WOW group studied a few years ago. Now, I don't know much about C.T.Studd, but he sure seemed to understand what matters most. **Most importantly, he knew Jesus.** I would like to share with you parts of his poem:

## Only One Life

By C.T. Studd

*Two little lines I heard one day,  
Traveling along life's busy way;  
Bringing conviction to my heart,  
And from my mind would not depart;  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.*

*Only one life, a few brief years,  
Each with its burdens, hopes and fears;  
Each with its things I must fulfill,  
Living for self or in His will;  
Only ne life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.*

*Give me Father, a purpose deep,  
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;  
Faithful and true what e'er the strife,  
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past.  
Only what's done for Christ will last.*

What are you seeking? **What are you looking for? "Come and see..." what Jesus has to offer.**

Amen.

