



Supper-time Conversations

Through the Gospel of St John

by

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"I did not know Him; but that He should be
revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with
water."

John 1:31

— GJ14 —



CHRIST-CONFESSING
METHODIST CHURCH

AGAINST THIS CHRIST-DENYING WORLD

John 1:30-31 "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."

Before God reveals Himself to any person it makes sense that that person be made clean. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor ear heavy, that it cannot hear. **But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you**, so that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perversity." Isaiah 59:1-3. One test you can apply to yourself as a check or thermometer whether or not God will hear you and help you, is by your everyday language. Is it clean and free of all perversity? That includes immoral sexual behaviour and misusing it and all slander and gossip. Twisting the truth and omitting parts of it. There must not even be a hint of a lie, falsehood or a "white lie". All must be cleansed away. John's baptism was different to that of Christian Baptism in that it was like the cleaning ceremonies converts to Judaism had to undergo in order to become a Jewish proselyte.

Read: Romans 6:3-4 and so John was preparing a people with whom God could look upon and with whom he could talk.

Pray: Thank you Lord Jesus for Your cleansing blood, that not only washes away all my sins, but keeps me clean. Amen.

John 1:32-34 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 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 River Jordan was a fitting place for John to baptize as its name means the "River of Death". Note **Rom 6:4** "Therefore we were buried with Him through "baptism into death", that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **Col. 3:1-2** "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." Paul then specifies what must be put to death and must be put in its place.

Read Colossians 3.

John also stated in yesterday's Scriptures "I did not know Him . . . therefore I came baptizing with water." John did not recognize Jesus as the Christ — the anointed one. He saw Him only as a fellow servant of God but by that inner voice of God He knew that the One upon whom the Holy Spirit would descend in a visible form would be the anointed of God. Not only that, but unlike with the Old Testament prophets, the Holy Spirit would REMAIN upon Him.

Pray: Lord, it is life indeed to know You! How utterly desolate I would be without You. Amen.

John 1:35-38 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. 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?"

I wonder how many people, nations or tribes can find something fresh and alive in their history today that happened 1450 years ago? Do you know anything of significance that took place so many years ago that impacts upon your life today? The exodus of Israel from their slavery in Egypt took place 1450 years before John the Baptist cried out "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." These few words reverberated right through their being and revived their memories of the cruel slavery their fathers endured in the godless land. Now this prophet of God was preparing a highway into the hearts of desolate people. Their desolation was far worse than the deserts of Egypt and their slavery was more deceptive than any Pharaoh ever dreamed of. The task masters were from hell and their Pharaoh was Satan.

Read: Romans 6:15-23 and note verse 18. "And having been set free from sin, you become slaves of righteousness." As God calls us into His service our only business is to point all who would hear to "Behold the Lamb of God!"

Pray: Lord, please let me hear in the wilderness that voice that bids me behold the Lamb of God. Amen.

John 1:39-41 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). 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).

After the two disciples of John heard him say, "Behold the Lamb of God" they followed Jesus. When Jesus saw them following Him He asks them "What do you seek?" and their reply is "Teacher we want to see where You are staying." The response of our Lord is not a map or explanation but a warm invitation, "Come and see."

Read: Mark 5:21. This is consistent with our Lord when He bids us come to Him and when you seek Him. "Come to Me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." "Seek and you will find." "Knock and it will be opened to you." This response was far more than what they expected. According to the Roman calculation of time which John uses in his Gospel it would have been 10:00am. The two were Andrew and Simon which means that we have in John the first meeting of these two with Jesus and that when Jesus called them to be His disciples in Matthew 4:18. Jesus had already afforded them time with Him. They had already been disciples of John the Baptist and knew that He was the Lamb of God.

Pray: Lord Jesus, it is good to know that You call me with an unrestrained love to come to You, and have You live in me. Amen.

John 1:42-43 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). The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me."

The world's population would be reached through every generation IF ONLY every person who truly meets with the Lord Jesus Christ commends their Saviour to all their family friends and colleagues. There are too many gospel hardened people in the pews. Those who truly live in Him and He in them are continually refreshed and overwhelmed by what the living Christ shows them and teaches them from His Word. When Jesus met with Andrew's brother, he immediately knew him and changed his name from Simon to Peter. (Cephas is a rock in Aramaic and a stone in Greek). A stone is significant, as the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is built with living stones. It is also significant what Peter writes in 1 Peter 2:4-10.

Read: 1 Peter 2:4-10 and note verse 4-5, "Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus. The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee and Phillip became one of His disciples."

Pray: Dear Lord, please make me to be like Andrew and earnestly entreat others to meet with You. Amen.

John 1:44-46 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 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."

Peter, Andrew and Philip were all from a fishing village called Bethsaida. This was located on the West side of the Sea of Galilee in the land of Gennesaret. This was, and still is, a very fertile plain stretching for approximately five kilometers on the North-West shore of the Sea of Galilee. On the North Eastern shore is another Bethsaida where Jesus fed the 5000 out of five loaves and two fish. (Matt. 14:13). Philip was also first a disciple of John the Baptist and the first to be called by Jesus to follow Him. Jesus called Andrew and Peter after He had earlier met with them (see Wednesday's STC). Jesus called Philip on His way to Galilee and he immediately followed Him. Philip is often characterized as being timid and retiring but still he was used to bring Nathanael to Jesus Christ. Philip says to Nathanael "we have found . . ." but it was the Lord who found him! Nathanael argues as to the possibility of the Christ coming out of Nazareth but Philip does not engage him in this argument. He simply says, "Come and see."

Pray: Lord, I need not to be clever or convincing, but if You live in me that is enough for all to see and believe You. Amen.

John 1:47-51 “Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” 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.” One look on Jesus and you know you see yourself a hell-deserving sinner and Jesus the Son of God! What an awesome contrast! All pretences and defences are shattered! He sees my hidden motives and notes what I say, do and think. This happens when I first meet Jesus. “Woe is me” says Isaiah for my eyes have seen the Lord (Isa 6:5) or Peter when he sees Jesus, “Depart from me for I am a sinful man.” (Luke 5:8). Nathanael is one of seven whom by implication or directly confessed Jesus as the Son of God in John’s Gospel. They are (1) John the Baptist - John 1:34; (2) Nathanael - John 1:49; (3) Peter - John 6:69; (4) The Lord himself - John 10:36; (5) Martha - John 11:27; (6) Thomas - John 20:28 (7) John the writer of this Gospel - John 20:31.

Pray: Jesus You are the Christ, the Son of the living God and You are my Saviour. Those who deny You do not know You. Amen.