Glad Tidings

"And we bring you good of the promise made unto the fathers…" (Acts 13:32)

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"Come and see..."

(Jerry Fite)

Today begins our Gospel Meeting. We begin six days of preaching the Word of God, highlighting the saving Gospel of Christ. It is "our" Meeting, which means we "all" are responsible to encourage others, especially the lost, to gather to hear the inspired Word of God.

Our work is to connect the Gospel message to listening ears. Until one hears the proclaimed Word, one cannot possess saving faith *(Romans 10:17).* Until one believes in Jesus, one has no reason, nor inclination to call upon Jesus's authoritative name to be saved *(Romans 10:13-14).* Our goal is to save the lost; our initial step is to invite the hearers.

When John the Baptist was fulfilling his work as the voice in the wilderness, he looked upon Jesus while walking with two of his disciples and said, *"behold the lamb of God!" (John 1:36).* John's interested learners, then followed Jesus. When Jesus noticed them, he turned to ask what they were seeking. They replied they wanted to know where Jesus was abiding. Jesus then responded with a simple invitation: *"Come, and ye shall see." (John 1:39).*

One of the two followers was Andrew. The day he spent with Jesus, Andrew learned that Jesus was more than the sacrificial lamb to be offered for the sin of the world, but that he was also the promised Messiah. He shared the good news with his brother Simon, and brought him to see Jesus.

Jesus' invitation of "come and he shall see" led to meeting Simon the Son of John who would become one of closest of the apostles with Jesus, and live up to the name of "Cephas" which by interpretation means Peter, a "stone" *(John 1:42).* Simon did not initially find Jesus, nor did Jesus search for Simon. Andrew brought his brother to Jesus after heeding Jesus' invitation to "come and see."

By inviting one to come and see for themselves the unsearchable riches of Christ, you may be involved in saving the soul of one who will bear much fruit in promoting the cause of Christ. It is exciting to know the next person you invite to come to the Gospel Meeting to see for themselves the glorious Christ, may in turn reach souls you could never reach, all to the glory of God.

The next day Philip, meeting Nathanael, declared that Jesus "of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" was the one whom Moses in the law, and the Old Testament prophets wrote about. Nathanael, replied, *"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"* Nazareth apparently did not have a favorable reputation in Jesus' day. In response to such negativity, Philip simply invited Nathanael to *"come and see"* for himself *(John 1:46).*

Nathanael soon learned that Jesus knew Nathanael, inside and out. He knew Nathanael's heart, declaring no guile resided therein. When Nathanael questioned how Jesus knew him, Jesus said *"before Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee" (John 1:48).* Jesus' omniscience was on display causing Nathanael to confess Jesus to be *"the Son of God; thou art the king of Israe[" (John 1:49)* Even when our invitation to the Gospel Meeting is met with some form of negativity, a simple "come and see" can lead to a positive outcome.

In the three days of John pointing people to Jesus, and Jesus' and Phillip's invitation to "come and see," people became convicted that Jesus was the lamb of God, the promised Messianic king, and the Son of God. Who knows what your "come and see" invitation might produce in our next six days of exalting Jesus through the Word in our Gospel Meeting!