



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 1:35-42  
From Sermon 2.26.23

Read *John 1:35-42*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: With our first, key witness (John the Baptist) done, new witnesses are now called to the stand. Jesus begins calling His disciples...later to be called Apostles. Two key truths should stand out in the narrative: 1) *how* people are called to Christ and 2) *who* is called to Christ. Our worldly thinking often distorts and confuses each subject. That can result in excusing ourselves from evangelism, discipleship, and spiritual accountability.

1. What foundational question did Jesus begin with? "What do you seek?" Why that question? The answer reveals much. Man is a seeker. He wants answers, solutions, and assurances. He is incurably religious.

1a. Review the account of the rich, young ruler in *Luke 18:18-23*. [= Formula, check list, "do"]

1b. Now consider the Apostles and their new spiritual desire(s) from the following verses:

*John 6:66-69*—Jesus alone has words of life. We don't need anyone else's words/teaching.

*Galatians 2:20*—I no longer seek my own desires, passions, or worldly goals. I am His.

*Matthew 25:20-21*—I am only a temporary steward of God's resources.

*Philippians 3:7-11*—My priorities and values have completely flipped. "The world behind me. The cross before me".

2. What is soteriology? The doctrine and study of salvation. Soter = savior. Ology = knowledge or study

3. In the salvation process, who chose who and how does that affect evangelism approaches? God chooses us, resurrects our formerly dead spirit, and grants faith. We don't need fancy gimmicks, fads, or a watered-down Gospel for this (or any culture). We just need to be faithful witnesses with our words and actions.

4. Share, briefly, how you came to Christ. Was it mostly at one big event or one-on-one evangelism?

5. Read *1 Corinthians 1:26-27*. Discuss who Jesus called vs who we would have called to start such a revolutionary movement. He chose ordinary, simple, uneducated people. The same way we choose a doctor, mechanic, or plumber, we would likely choose the best qualified candidates for our team.

5a. Why did Jesus choose the weak, the uneducated, and the unqualified? So that, in any victory, Christ gets the glory. See also *Acts 4:13*.

6. What were the three "Evangelism Hurdles" introduced on Sunday?

i. Our Influence is Too Small.

ii. Our Life Doesn't Match Up to the Message

iii. Our Courage Fails