



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

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Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Scripture: John 1:35-42

TITLE: You Can't Have it Your Way

Independence is a core value of Americans today. We like individual freedom above all else. Autonomy is king. Think about the marketing efforts today. The restaurants advertise "have it your way." The technology is named "I" for a reason. The schools are giving the learning over to the students. Study when you want, how you want.

But autonomy is not a picture of Christianity. Two words describe Christianity very well. What are those two words? Let's go back to the Book of John in 1:35-42.

The next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

John the Baptist has been preparing the way for the Messiah. He has been telling the people he meets and the disciples he teaches to be ready. The Messiah is coming. And in the previous verses, he's said, Here He is! Jesus Christ is the Son of God! The Messiah is here.

And here, two of John's disciples are told, "Here is that Messiah! This is the guy." And the disciples get up and begin to follow Jesus. "Follow" here has likely two meanings. First, physically, they got up and left John to physically follow Jesus. But it was not like a stalker who hung back to watch. They pick up the pace to walk with Him. But there is a handing off here. They transition from following John as his students to following Jesus as His students. That's the first word: follow. Christians are not mavericks or rogue agents. They are followers of Jesus.

Jesus turns to them and questions them. They answer by saying, "Rabbi" or "Teacher." This is the other word to describe Christianity: teacher. When we follow Jesus, we become His students. He is our teacher. We open our hearts and minds to Jesus' teaching. You can't have it your way. It is all about His way.

So here's my challenge for you today: embrace your role as a student and Jesus' role as a teacher. Which is harder for you? Being a student or submitting to Jesus? Share in the comments below

how this is a struggle for you today. I'll be honest, this isn't easy for me. But I know it's what's best.

So today, begin to actively follow Jesus and embrace Him as your teacher.

When you do, you will win the day!