

## Step Closer Week 2

John 1:35-42

Listen to this passage.

### **John 1:37-39 (NIV2011)**

<sup>37</sup> When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

<sup>38</sup> Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

<sup>39</sup> “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

The question.

Where are you staying?

The answer?

1. Come – Jesus invites them to be part of his life.
- 2.
3. You will see – Jesus invites them to a personal experience.

(What did they see? Jesus – Son of God, Messiah, Emmanuel (god with us), etc remember from Christmas )

But they also saw – lame men walk, lepers cured, blind who saw, demons cast out, miracle after miracle even dead raised to life

But they also saw a relationship.

Look at v39

.” So they went” - They followed, they took the steps necessary to see.

Perhaps it was “their willingness to come that initiated their ability to see!

The same is true for us.

We follow Jesus by what we see in Him.

For example.

Healer – we participate in the healing process

Peacemaker - we participate in social justice

Miracle worker – we get involved in specific prayer ministry

The list goes on.

While we like to be involved with Jesus in the ways we like. Sometimes Jesus takes us somewhere we didn't know we wanted to go.

"Jesus leads us into places we would never choose to go so He can show us things we would be never able to see." (pg31 Stickl)

What if the disciples said no? What if the Israelites said no to following the cloud? What if we say no?

Ok let's take the "what if" further.

What if Naaman said no and didn't step into the water.

### **2 Kings 5:11-14 (NIV2011)**

<sup>11</sup> But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.

<sup>12</sup> Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

<sup>13</sup> Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!"

<sup>14</sup> So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

What if some kid didn't want to give up his loaves and fish:

### **Luke 9:13-17 (NIV2011)**

<sup>13</sup> He replied, "You give them something to eat." They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd."

<sup>14</sup> (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each."

<sup>15</sup> The disciples did so, and everyone sat down.

<sup>16</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people.

<sup>17</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

What if the Israelites got tired of walking around Jericho?

### **Joshua 6:4-5 (NIV2011)**

<sup>4</sup> Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets.

<sup>5</sup> When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

See the what if's?

So where does that leave us?

What if we follow our God given cloud? It will take some level of understanding.?

Well here I beg to differ:

“ We don’t understand to and the obey, we obey and then we understand.” (pg35) That is the Biblical model.

Follow me, then you will know.

What did that first passage say:

<sup>39</sup> “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

But oh that is hard, it’s not who we are, it’s not our experience.

Maybe not, but maybe it should be different.

**Hebrews 11:29-38 (NIV2011)**

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

<sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

<sup>31</sup> By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets,

<sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,

<sup>34</sup> quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

Step closer by faith. Follow then be open to understand.