



What do You Want?
THE SIX WEEK
Pursuit

“What do you Want?”

A simple question that forever changed the lives of two young men following a mysterious teacher. Little did the two young men realize just the journey they had stepped into when they left John the Baptist to follow this man named Jesus. And all of it began with one little harmless question from Jesus:

“What do you Want?”

So, uh, what do YOU want? What do you long for? What is it you pursue? Jesus did not ask this question with disgust or annoyance. Jesus genuinely asked these two would-be disciples: what do you desire? It is such a simple question and yet, when Jesus talks, He tends to talk in terms of a bigger picture. Jesus sees eternity. Jesus is not concerned so much with what you and I want now. He is far more concerned with what we truly and deeply long for and pursue.

Now, how should these two young men respond to Jesus’ deep philosophical question? These two young guys, possibly even teenagers, answer Jesus’ deep question with: “Where are you staying?” In other words: “We want to know where you live so we can bother you every day!” This is exactly the kind of thing a teenager would say to someone they idolize. And these two young men meet Jesus and have that same response: “Tell us where you live Jesus! We wanna know where to find you!”

Then, Jesus says exactly what you can expect Jesus to say: “Come and see.” I love that! This is such a Jesus statement! Jesus shows rather than tells! And just look what Jesus showed the those who followed Him: He walked on storms, He calmed seas, He healed the sick, He loved the unlovable, He revealed God, and ultimately He went to a cross, died, and then defeated death three days later! What an incredible journey these young men got to experience!

“What do you want?” What does your soul, your very heart crave for? I’ll give you a hint: whatever it is, I guarantee it shows up in your everyday life. Because when we want something, we pursue it. But the reverse is also true: what we don’t really care about, we do not pursue.

“What Do You Want?”

The two would-be-disciples wanted Jesus. They wanted to spend time with Him. They wanted to know Him. They wanted to know where they could find Him. How about you? Do you want to know Jesus? Do you want to learn more about Him? Do you want to know how He works and what He is like? Do you want to pursue Him?

I have wrestled with these questions myself and alarmingly I realized: I do, and I don’t. In my head, when Jesus asks “What do you want?” my immediate response is: “You Jesus!” But my actions show something different. My actions show that I don’t want Jesus. My actions show I want “me time”. And yet, when I pursue self-satisfaction I am never satisfied. I just feel empty. I wonder if Andrew and the unnamed disciple felt this way before Jesus walked by. I wonder if they, like many of us, were searching for something more. Little did they realize, they did not just find something more, they found:

EVERYTHING!!!

“Where are You Staying?”

What did these two young men want? They wanted to know where they could continue to find Jesus. We need to ask this same question. We need to find where Jesus is staying. Now, Jesus is not hiding somewhere in physical form playing hide-and-seek; waiting for His most diligent followers to find Him. Yet we often treat Jesus like He is playing some kind of spiritual hide-and-seek. We think: if I pray long enough, God will finally hear me. If I attend church, God will change my circumstances. If I do _____ I will find the answer I am searching for.

This is the heart of what the disciples were asking of Jesus. These two young men were searching for an answer; searching for something meaningful. If you are searching for Jesus, if you want more, if you want to know more, then you must do one simple thing.

“Come and See”

Come, approach, draw near and witness for yourself who Jesus is, where He stays, what He does, and what He has in store for you. When the disciples came to Jesus, Jesus challenged them to consider their hearts: “What do you want?” After telling him they were searching for an answer, Jesus told them to follow Him and see for themselves.

This is Jesus' call to you and I. If you do not follow, you will not see. Jesus is not hiding. He is standing right in front of us with an extended hand; inviting us into the greatest and most terrifying journey of a lifetime. And let me just say: following Jesus is not easy. Just read the adventures of the disciples and what Jesus put them through and you will understand. However, there is also nothing greater than following Jesus; no greater reward or life.

So here's where we land the plane today. What do you want? I believe it is a good thing to honestly reflect and look at our day-to-day lives and see: what do I want? If I want to change what I want, then I need to find an answer. I need to "Come and See" who Jesus is. I need to be like the two disciples and follow after Him. I need to move forward. I need to "Come and See."

GROUP DISCUSSION

Take a few minutes to discuss the following questions with your group.

1. What did Jesus really mean when He asked: "What do you want?"
2. What is the best way to find out what you want?
3. So, after some reflection, what do you want? What are you pursuing?
4. The two disciples were looking for an answer to life. They were searching for something meaningful. When they found Jesus, they believed they found that meaningful answer. Do you believe Jesus brings meaning to your life?
5. When the disciples found their meaningful answer they asked "Where are you Staying?" How do you react when you meet someone who is meaningful to you? How can you apply this to following Jesus?
6. Jesus said to the two young men: "Come and See." How can we "Come and See" where Jesus is today? What does this mean for your day-to-day life?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

If you have children, here are some questions you can go over with them.

1. What do you want from Jesus? Do you want to know Him more?
2. If you could spend a day with Jesus, how would you spend your day? What if I told you, you can spend every day with Jesus right now even though you cannot see Him?
3. What can we do to see more of Jesus this week?

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together in prayer. Here are a few ideas of what you could pray about based on the topic of today's discussion:

- Pray for God to help you evaluate your wants and desires. Ask God to change your desires.
- Pray an awareness of God would increase in your life
- Pray for your group; that Jesus would become more real in their lives.
- Pray for Jesus to show you He is the answer. Do not be ashamed. Jesus knows what you are already thinking and knows where we struggle.
- Thank God for what He has done and that He wants you.

THIS WEEK...

At least once this week set aside ten minutes just to sit with Jesus. It may be helpful to find a place with no distractions. You can do this at home, in your car, at work, in nature; whatever best suits you. The goal is to get alone with Jesus. Jesus wants you to come and see who He is. Reflect on Jesus; think about Him. Read about Him in the book of John if you want to learn more. Thank God for what He has done in your life. God loves you. If you are up to it, come next week and share what you felt from this experience with your group. God bless!