



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 2 January 2022

New Year – New Opportunity

Take some time to reflect on what God is impressing on you from your readings in Matthew's Gospel during our 40 Days of Prayer & Fasting.

Please read John 1.35-39

1. Jesus asks the 2 men who have begun following him, "What do you want? – Why do you think Jesus does this? And how does it create a significant moment for them to step forward in their faith?"
2. What do you think about how they respond to Jesus' question? – What are they saying that they really want?
3. What do you think about how Jesus responds to their request? (See also Matthew 7.7-8). How does this reassure us if we are genuine about wanting to get to know Jesus better?
4. How about you? - As you follow Jesus and he turns round and asks you, 'What do you want?' How will you respond to him at the start of this year?

Please read John 1.43-46

5. Philip was obedient to Jesus' call to 'follow me', and it opened up a whole new relationship with God and a whole new kingdom for him (and through him, for others). How do you sense God is calling or commanding you to step out in faith and follow Him in this season?
6. How might we develop more of a habit of taking the many opportunities to invite others to 'come and see' Jesus in our life or in the life of our church family?

Please read John 1.47-51

Before Nathaniel sees Jesus, Jesus sees Nathanael. Jesus speaks personally into his life and reveals that he knows Nathaniel, in a way that touches his soul.

7. Why does Jesus do this? How does this create a moment of opportunity for Nathanael to step forward in faith?

In Bryan Stevenson's book, Just Mercy, he writes, "Is there anything that feels lonelier than the experience of being unseen, misunderstood, and prematurely dismissed? And is there anything more life-giving than the experience of being seen for who we really are, deep down beneath the fragile defences we hold up out of fear? To come and see Jesus is to enter into the joy of being deeply seen and deeply known - and deeply loved."

8. How does Nathanael respond to Jesus' seeing him, and how will God bless his faith?
9. How does this inspire you to 'come and see' Jesus more intimately his year?