**Finding Your Purpose**
John 1:35-51

**John 20:31 NKJV**,

“But these are written that you may BELIEVE that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that BELIEVING you may have LIFE in His name.”

 Finding Your Purpose, John 1:35-51 NIV.

Your purpose is determined by God before it’s discovered by you.

**John 1:35 NIV,**

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they FOLLOWED Jesus.

 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”39 “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.

40 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).

42 And he brought him to Jesus.Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “FOLLOW ME.”

The word Christian is used only 3 times in the New Testament. The word disciple is used 269 times.

God determined his purpose before he discovered it.

**Matthew 4:18 NLT** Jesus says,

18 One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. 19 Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” 20 And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Our career is what we get paid to do, but our purpose is what we are made to do.

The only way to find YOU is to FOLLOW JESUS.

The only way you will discover WHO you are is to discover WHOSE you are.

**Matthew 16:24 NIV**,

 “Whoever wants to be my disciple *(follower or apprentice)* must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.  25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

* **Deny yourself.** **Philippians 3:7-8 NLT**,

 “7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ.”

* **Take Up Your Cross.**

**Galatians 2:20 NLT**,

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

* **Follow Me.**

 FANS of Jesus.

A fan is an enthusiastic admirer.

44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

46 “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

48 “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” 49 Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

50 Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” 51 He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

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 Follow Jesus and you will find your purpose.

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What is keeping you from following Jesus?