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Discipleship: Come and See, Go and Tell

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KEY VERSE

"He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day." – John 1:39

READINGS

Psalm 66

The season after Pentecost is the season of discipleship. After receiving the power of the Holy Spirit, the Church is called not merely to gather, but to go into the world as witnesses of Jesus Christ. The theme before us today – "Discipleship: Come and See, Go and Tell" – beautifully captures the heart of Christian life. A disciple first comes to Jesus, experiences Him personally, and then goes to others with the good news. Christian discipleship is never passive. It is an invitation and a mission. It begins with "Come and see," and it continues with "Go and tell." In today's Gospel reading, Andrew first encounters Jesus, and immediately after meeting Him, he goes and brings his brother Simon Peter to Christ. That is the pattern of discipleship. Encounter leads to witness. Experience leads to mission. Faith becomes proclamation. The world today desperately needs authentic disciples – not merely churchgoers, but people who have seen Christ, experienced His transforming grace, and are willing to witness boldly in society. Let us reflect on this theme through four spiritual movements from today's readings.

"Come and See" – Discipleship Begins with an Encounter with Christ (John 1.39-42)

In John 1:39, Jesus says to the two disciples of John the Baptist, "Come and see." Christianity is not first a philosophy, institution, or moral code. It is an invitation into a relationship with Jesus Christ. The disciples were curious: "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Jesus did not give them a lecture. He invited them into His presence. True discipleship always begins with being with Jesus. Many people today know about Jesus, but they do not truly know Him personally. They know church traditions, doctrines, and rituals, but they have not encountered the living Christ. Christianity is not merely inherited; it must be experienced. Andrew spent one evening with Jesus, and that meeting changed his life forever. A single encounter with Christ can redirect an entire destiny. In the Bible, every great servant of God had such an encounter. Moses met God at the burning bush. Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up in the temple. Saul encountered Christ on the road to Damascus. The disciples met Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Christianity is a faith of encounter. Theologically, discipleship begins with grace. Jesus takes the initiative. Before we seek Him, He seeks us. Before we love Him, He loves us. The invitation "Come and see" is the invitation of divine grace. Sometimes people think discipleship means sacrifice alone. Certainly, discipleship involves sacrifice, obedience, and cross-bearing. But before all that, discipleship is communion with Christ. We cannot go and tell unless we first come and see. There is a beautiful illustration from the life of Sadhu Sundar Singh. Once someone asked him, "What is the secret of your spiritual power?" He replied, "I spend much time with Jesus." That is the secret of every fruitful disciple. Ministry without intimacy becomes empty activity. Service without communion becomes dry religion. Psalm 66 reflects this experience

beautifully: “Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for me.” The Psalmist first experiences God’s mighty works, and then invites others to hear about them. Worship and witness always belong together. Dear friends, before asking, “What can I do for Christ?” we must first ask, “Am I spending time with Christ?” The disciple first comes and sees.

“Go and Tell” – True Encounter Leads to Witness (Rom.10.9-17)

After Andrew encountered Jesus, the first thing he did was to find his brother Simon and say: “We have found the Messiah.” This is the natural movement of discipleship. Those who truly meet Christ cannot remain silent. Romans 10 emphasizes this missionary responsibility: “How are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim Him?” Faith comes by hearing. Therefore, the Church is called to proclaim Christ. Today many Christians hesitate to share their faith. Some feel unqualified. Some fear rejection. Some think evangelism is only for pastors or missionaries. But Andrew was not a preacher or theologian at that moment. He simply shared what he had experienced. Evangelism is not merely argument; it is testimony. One candle lights another candle. One believer leads another believer. Andrew brought Peter. Philip brought Nathanael. The Samaritan woman brought her village. Simple witness changes history. There is an old story about a little boy carrying a small lamp through a dark village road. Someone mocked him saying, “Your tiny lamp cannot light the whole road.” The boy replied, “It gives enough light for my next step.” That is Christian witness. We may not change the entire world at once, but our testimony can illuminate one life. Theologically, witness is the continuation of the mission of Christ. Jesus said in Matthew 28: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” The Church does not exist merely for itself. It exists for the world. A church that does not evangelize becomes spiritually weak. Pentecost was never meant to remain inside the upper room. The Spirit pushes the Church outward. In Zechariah 8, we see a prophetic vision of nations coming to seek the Lord: “Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem.” God’s vision has always been global. Israel was called to be a blessing to the nations. The Church today continues that mission. In our Indian context, this witness is deeply important. We live among people of many religions, cultures, and philosophies. Christian witness must therefore be filled with humility, love, and integrity. We do not witness through hatred or superiority. We witness through compassion, truth, and Christlike life. St. Francis of Assisi once said: “Preach the Gospel at all times; if necessary, use words.” Our life itself should become a testimony. When people see kindness, forgiveness, honesty, peace, humility, and sacrificial love in us, they should be able to see Christ.

Discipleship Means Remaining with Jesus and Being Transformed

John’s Gospel says:“They remained with Him that day.”Discipleship is not a one-time emotional experience. It is a lifelong journey of remaining with Christ.Many people begin enthusiastically but fail to continue faithfully. True discipleship requires perseverance, spiritual discipline, prayer, worship, Bible meditation, and obedience.To remain with Jesus means allowing Him to transform our character.Simon came to Jesus as Simon, but Jesus renamed him Peter. Christ changes identity. He transforms fearful people into courageous witnesses. He transforms selfish people into servants. He transforms sinners into saints.This transformation is central to Christian theology. Salvation is not merely forgiveness; it is new creation.In today’s world, people often want Christianity without transformation. They want blessings without surrender, salvation without obedience, religion without discipleship. But Jesus calls us to follow Him completely.Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German

theologian and martyr, said:“When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.”Discipleship involves surrender of ego, pride, selfishness, and sin. It means carrying the cross daily.Yet this surrender leads to joy and freedom.Psalm 66 speaks about God refining His people:“For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried.”God shapes disciples through trials, sufferings, and challenges. Pentecost does not remove difficulties; it gives strength to endure them.A sculptor was once chiselling a stone. Someone asked him, “How do you know what to carve?” He replied, “I remove everything that does not belong to the statue.”That is how Christ works in us. Through His Word, Spirit, and discipline, He removes what does not reflect His image.Sometimes God allows struggles not to destroy us, but to mature us.The Church today needs mature disciples, not shallow believers. Mature disciples pray even when life is difficult. They remain faithful even in suffering. They continue serving even when unrecognized.To “come and see” must eventually become “remain and follow.”

Discipleship Becomes a Mission to the Nations

Zechariah’s prophecy gives a magnificent picture:“Ten men from nations of every language shall take hold of a Jew, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”What a powerful vision! The nations are attracted because they recognize the presence of God among His people.The greatest missionary force of the Church is not merely its programs, but the visible presence of God in its life.When the early Church lived in unity, prayer, generosity, and holiness, people were drawn to Christ. Acts says:“The Lord added to their number day by day.”The world is not looking for perfect Christians, but authentic Christians.Discipleship is contagious when it is genuine.In our society today, people are searching for meaning, peace, hope, and truth. Many are exhausted by materialism, conflict, loneliness, and anxiety. The Church has the answer – Jesus Christ.We are called to invite people lovingly:“Come and see.”And after experiencing Christ, we are sent:“Go and tell.”This movement continues through every generation.Parents must bring children to Christ. Teachers must witness in classrooms. Youth must witness among friends. Clergy must preach boldly. Lay people must become missionaries in workplaces and neighbourhoods.The Gospel travels from person to person, heart to heart.One of the greatest examples is Andrew himself. He is not as famous as Peter, yet without Andrew bringing Peter to Jesus, history may have looked different. Never underestimate the power of bringing one person to Christ.A Sunday school teacher once faithfully taught a small boy about Jesus. That boy later became a great evangelist. The teacher was unknown to the world, but heaven remembered her faithfulness.God does extraordinary things through ordinary disciples.

Conclusion

Today Christ still says:“Come and see.”He invites us into His presence, into deeper fellowship, into discipleship.And once we encounter Him, He sends us:“Go and tell.”The Church is called to be both contemplative and missionary – spending time with Jesus and sharing Jesus with the world.The challenge before us is this:Have we truly encounteredChrist personally?Are we remaining with Him daily?Are we bringing others to Him?The world needs disciples who live what they preach, who love as Christ loved, and who boldly proclaim the Gospel with humility and grace.May we become disciples who come and see, remain and follow, and go and tell.

Closing Prayer

Gracious and loving God,We thank You for calling us into discipleship through Your Son Jesus

Christ. Thank You for inviting us to come and see Your grace, mercy, and truth. Draw us closer to You each day, that we may remain in Your presence and grow in faith and obedience.Lord, forgive us for the times we have remained silent about Your love. Fill us afresh with the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may boldly go and tell others about Christ. Make our lives living testimonies of Your compassion, holiness, and peace.Strengthen Your Church throughout the world. Bless all pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and faithful believers who witness in difficult places. Help us to shine as lights in this world.When we face trials, refine us like silver and make us faithful disciples. Use us to bring many people into Your kingdom.May our homes, churches, and communities experience the living presence of Christ so that others may say, “God is truly with them.”We ask all this in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord.. Amen