

Lesson III.

JESUS WINS HIS FIRST DISCIPLES

January 15, 1905

John 1:35-51. Commit to memory vs. 40, 41.

GOLDEN TEXT—Thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.—John 1:49.

35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

36 And looking upon Je'sus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Je'sus.

38 Then Je'sus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rab'bi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where ¹dwestest thou?

39 He saith unto them, Come and ²see. They came ³and saw where he ⁴dwelt, and abode with him that day: ⁵for it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two which heard John ⁶speak, and followed him, was An'drew, Si'mon Pe'ter's brother.

41 He ⁷first findeth his own brother Si'mon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messi'as, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

42 And he brought him to Je'sus. ⁸And when Je'sus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of ⁹jo'na: thou shalt be called Cep'has, ¹⁰which is by interpretation, A stone.

43 ¹¹The day following Je'sus would go forth into Gal'ilee, and findeth Phil'ip, and ¹²saith unto him, Follow me.

44 Now Phil'ip was ¹³of Bethsai'da, ¹⁴the city of An'drew and Pe'ter.

Revised Version—¹abidest; ²ye shall; ³therefore; ⁴abode; ⁵Omit for; ⁶findeth first; ⁷Je'sus looked upon him, and said; ⁸(which is by interpretation, Peter); ⁹On the morrow he was minded to; ¹⁰Jesus; ¹¹from; ¹²of; ¹³Omit the; ¹⁴Omit Hereafter; ¹⁵the; ¹⁶opened.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—February, 27 A.D.; near Bethabara.

Connection—The testimony of John the Baptist to Jesus is followed by that of the first disciples.

I. WELCOMING DISCIPLES.—35-39. The next day; after v. 29, the second after v. 19. John (the Baptist) stood; his own and his companions' hearts full with expectation. And two of his disciples; Andrew (v. 40), and doubtless John, the writer, in his old age, of this Gospel; but how vividly he remembers the smallest particulars. It was the great day of his life, this. Looking upon Jesus; rapt in thought of His sacred character. Behold the Lamb of God; the one only pure and holy One, who died for our sins, v. 29. And they followed Jesus. Like a magnet, Jesus drew these fine young men to Himself. Jesus... saith... What seek ye? An encouraging question. Whatever they needed, He could give. Rabbi; a title of respect for a teacher, literally, "My Greatness." Where dwellest thou? Perhaps put, through shyness. They would come some other time. Come and see. His love is urgent. "Come now," He says. They came; shyness gone in the face of His gracious winsomeness. They... abode with him that day; a memorable day, the beginning, for them, of a new life, and the beginning of the Christian church. Tenth hour; about two hours before dark.

II. CHANGING A NAME.—40-42. One... Andrew, Simon Peter's brother; so described because Peter became more famous. Andrew was one of the Twelve, Matt. 10:2 (see also ch. 6:5, 9; 12:22). John does not in his Gospel mention his own name. First findeth... brother. John, we gather from this, found his brother, James (Matt. 10:

45 Phil'ip findeth Nathan'ael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Mo'ses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Je'sus of Naz'areth, the son of Jo'seph.

46 And Nathan'ael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Naz'areth? Phil'ip saith unto him, Come and see.

47 Je'sus saw Nathan'ael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Is'raelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

48 Nathan'ael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Je'sus answered and said unto him, Before that Phil'ip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

49 Nathan'ael answered and saith unto him, Rab'bi, thou art the Son of God; thou art ¹⁵the King of Is'rael.

50 Je'sus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

51 And he saith unto him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, ¹⁶Hereafter ye shall see ¹⁷heaven ¹⁸open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

2), but not till after Andrew had found Peter. The Messiah ("Messiah")... the Christ; the most joyful discovery any one can make. Messiah is Hebrew, and Christ, Greek, for "the Anointed," a



The Apostle John as Depicted in
Legendary Art

title of the Saviour. Brought him to Jesus; for whose kingdom Peter afterwards did so much, Acts 2:14, 41. Jesus beheld him; looked him through and through, seeing what he was and what he could become. Cephas... A stone ("mass of rock"); pointing to the firmness into which he should grow. (Compare Matt. 16:17, 18.)

III. SUMMONING A FOLLOWER.—43, 44. Jesus... findeth Philip; the apostle, Matt. 10:3. Jesus came to seek and to save, Luke 19:10. Follow me; the first time Jesus gave this invitation. Of Beth-