

Come and See  
John 1:43-51

This past Wednesday, Darla and I went out for breakfast at The Bread Basket. Each year, the Delaware County Ministerial sets a date for a breakfast meeting and we invite spouses to attend. Pastor Rogers, who serves Manchester United Methodist, was the last one to arrive. When he was about half way between the front door and where we were sitting, he loudly proclaimed. “I’m a grandpa! The first thing he did when he saw us was to share his good news.

Do people today need to hear some good news?

I don’t watch the news on TV, turn on the radio just to listen to news, or look for it on the internet. But I can tell you what the top 2 stories are: 1) Instead of doing something useful the Washington politicians are fighting amongst themselves, and 2) COVID-19 – the death toll continues to rise, and even though several vaccines have been approved, there are going to be problems getting it to the people.

I can’t tell you the specifics of the rest of the news, but I’m sure it includes a variety of examples of people treating each other badly: spewing venomous words, destroying property, all kinds of violence,

and even killing one another. There is no shortage of bad news.

Do people need to hear some good news?

Philip thought so. For hundreds of years His people had been eagerly waiting for God to keep His promise to send the Savior. Jesus found Philip, and called him to follow Him. Philip became convinced that Jesus was the One. God had spoken of the Savior through Moses and the prophets, and now He had kept His promise in the person of Jesus.

Philip had good news to share. And he did! He went and found his friend Nathanael. *Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”*

Can you say that? Let’s practice it together: (Come and see.)

Philip believed that Jesus was the Savior, and so he went and shared the good news with his friend. How did his friend respond? With a little skepticism. And how did Philip respond? He said, “Come and see.”

Can you say that? Let’s practice it together: (Come and see.)

What could happen if you shared the good news of Jesus with one of your friends?

Jesus once said, *Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account* (Matthew 5:11).

Is that likely to happen to you? This is your friend we are talking about. You are sharing something deeply personal – you are sharing *reason for the hope that is in you* (1 Peter 3:15). Is your friend going to attack you? It's very unlikely. And even if there is some slight skepticism, what can you say? "Come and see."

Can you say that? Let's practice it together: (Come and see.)

It's getting easier each time you say it. You can do this! You can invite your friend to come here on a Sunday morning to see Jesus.

He is here as He has promised as we gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In that name you were baptized. In that name we gather, and He is with us.

Jesus is here in the words of holy absolution, speaking to you and delivering to you the forgiveness of all your sin.

Jesus is here in His word as the Scriptures are read from the lectern.

Jesus better be here in the sermons I preach. You can't really fire me if He's not, but steps should and would be taken if, in every sermon I did not point to Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead for the forgiveness of your sin.

That is the reason for the hope that is in you. You believe that this Jesus who was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger is Immanuel – God with us.

You believe that He lived a life free from sin and offered Himself on the cross as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

You believe that death and the grave could not hold Him – that He rose from the dead and now sits at the right hand of God the Father.

You believe that He will return to earth in all His glory to raise all people from death and give to you a new and perfect body, and that you will live with Him in endless joy.

That's some good news! And people today need to hear some good news.

And what can you tell them? "Come and see."

Can you say that? Let's practice it together: (Come and see.) Amen.