



THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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SUNDAY SERMON

YOUR DIVINE INVITATION

Pastor A.S.O Olaleye

22nd October, 2023

Divine invitation by Jesus Christ is stage by stage.

Text: John 1:35-39

[35]Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples.

[36]And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

[37]The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

[38]Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" [39]He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

The first invitation of Christ to a curious seeker is

1. "Come and see..."

Who is a curious seeker?

A curious seekers will come and go as soon as he gets what he wants.

Jesus Christ is never demanding or forceful. The decision is yours to investigate the claims of Christ. When you do, you will discover that God always takes the initiative first. The Bible says, "For the Son of man (Jesus) came to seek and save those who were lost." (Luke 19:10).

If God has not come to where we are first, we would never be able to go to where He is. Love reached out. Love reached down.

How thankful we should be for a love that looked beyond our faults and saw our need.

Have you experienced a love like that? God's love is unconditional! There is nothing you could do to earn His love any more than there is anything you could do to cause Him to stop loving you. What a relief! When Jesus invites us to come to Him, His love is reaching out to embrace us with grace and acceptance. Have you responded to the first invitation of Christ - "Come and see...."?

2. "Follow Me." John 1:43

[43]The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me."

Curious seekers will come and go, but disciples will follow Jesus.

At this level of invitation, your soul has been awakened to a new reality, a spiritual one,



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the possibility of experiencing a personal relationship with Jesus that is transforming is sure.

Take the next step and commit your life to Him. Follow Him. Jesus says, "Follow Me and I will make you..." Matthew 4:19a.

As we follow Him, our lives are transformed, made new! Baptism is a beautiful picture of one who has responded to His invitation to follow Him. Still, there's yet another invitation.

3. "Learn from Me"

Matthew 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Listen to what The Message says in Matthew 11:28-30: "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

As you learn from Jesus, you'll discover an even deeper dimension to His invitation.

4. "Abide in Me."

John 15:1-5

[1]"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

[2]Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

[3]You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

[4]Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

[5]"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Another translation of that verse puts it like this, "Live in Me, and I will live in you."

The word "abide" means to remain, to live attached, connected to Christ.

As a branch abides in the vine to receive its very life, we are to abide in Him.

As we abide in Him, we find our voice and mission, our purpose.

We become what I call The Divine Echo.

It becomes as natural as breathing to echo the invitation we received in the beginning as we invite others around us to come and see.