

Follow Me
So much more than a prayer
Pastor Craig Sweeney | August 9, 2026

Thread: To Follow Jesus is SO much more than a prayer.

*“Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which means ‘Christ’). Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, ‘Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas. (which means ‘Peter’).’ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Come, follow me.’ Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter’s hometown. Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, ‘We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ ‘Nazareth!’ exclaimed Nathanael. ‘Can anything good come from Nazareth?’ ‘Come and see for yourself,’ Philip replied. As they approached, Jesus said, ‘**Now here is a genuine son of Israel— a man of complete integrity.**’ ‘**How do you know about me?**’ Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, ‘I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.’ Then Nathanael exclaimed, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!’ Jesus asked him, ‘Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.’ Then he said, ‘I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.’”*
John 1:40-51 NLT

What do we learn from their calling?

Nathanael teaches:

- He knows **who I am** at my core.

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(v 47-49)

- You bring no surprises to the trip.

Simon Peter teaches:

- Following Jesus is to **become** the person God **envisioned**.

“Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, ‘Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas. (which means ‘Peter’).’” **(v 42)**

- Means He created you.

“I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart...” **Jeremiah 1:5a NLT**

“I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.” **Philippians 3:12-14 NLT**

Two things to think about:

1. Character/virtues

2. Purpose

Challenge:

- He knows you down to your core, press in to know Him better.
- Do you have clarity about what He envisions for your purpose and character?
- Follow Him, and you will.

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