The Man who Knew Men
Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

    A. Text: John 1:35-51.

    B. John called Jesus the Lamb of God because he understood that the first problem man must answer is the problem of sin.

II. Jesus asks John and Andrew, what do you seek?

    A. This is one of the most penetrating questions someone can ask.

    B. This is one of the most important questions to answer when one is far away from God.

III. The Lord was responsive to Andrew and John's need to investigate.

IV. Peter was sought, brought and caught for the Messiah.

    A. Jesus captured Peter by declaring that he would be a rock--He saw the possibilities in him.

    B. This is what won Peter.

V. Jesus found Philip.

    A. The other disciples did not find Philip because he was the kind that no one remembers.

    B. Jesus finds those who are invisible.

VI. One of the encouraging things about being a Christian is that you do not have to plan how you are going to be--you just must obey the Lord and follow Him.

VII. The encounter with Nathaniel.

    A. Jesus tells Nathaniel his character.

    B. Jesus could read people instantly and accurately by simply looking at them.

    C. Jesus saw what was in Nathaniel, and this causes Nathaniel to declare Him the Son of God, the Messiah.

    D. Jesus replied by showing Nathaniel that He was the mediator between man and God.

VIII. Observations of those who came to Jesus.

    A. They were men and not women.

        1. The Lord consistently called men to the highest positions of leadership to His church.

2. Whenever this is forsaken, you always have weakness.

B. These were ordinary men.

C. The Lord never handled any two alike because they all were very different.

D. We are all called to be disciples today similarly, and He will fulfill our potential.

Application questions:

1. What was outstanding to you about how Jesus reached out to His disciples in the beginning?
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2. Why is it important to understand individuals as best as possible when reaching out to them?
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3. How can knowing that the disciples were ordinary men encourage other believers?
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