

Come and See

Andrew felt a bolt of excitement race through his body when he heard John the Baptist say to him: “Look! There is the Lamb of God.” Andrew looked up just in time to see Jesus turn a corner and disappear down one of the small streets of the town.

With the Baptist’s other disciple, John, Andrew ran after Jesus to catch up with him. Surprised at their sudden departure, John the Baptist was left with an amused look on his face.

Jesus heard the footsteps of the two disciples running up behind him and quickly turned to face them. Andrew and John slowed to a walk, holding back a little. Jesus saw they were keeping a respectful distance, meaning him no harm.

“What are you looking for?” Jesus asked.

“Rabbi, where are you staying?”

“Come and see.” Jesus said.

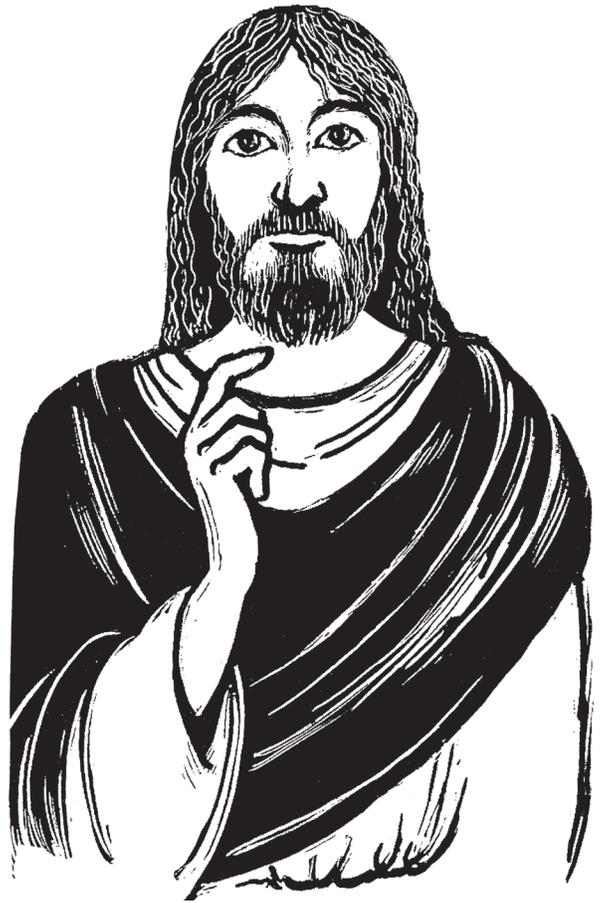
The afternoon heat was sometimes scorching in the plain that lay across the Jordan on the lower slopes of lofty Jebel Yusha, highest mountain in Gilead. In the town of Bethany the air was motionless. The heat was unable to escape, trapped between the oven-like walls of the mountain ranges that straddled the Jordan valley.

As Jesus, Andrew and John moved slowly along the street, no-one wanted to break the heavy silence of the late afternoon. Conversation would have to wait until they found shade and refuge from the hot blanket of heat that smothered about them.

When they arrived at the place where Jesus was staying he made them welcome and they sat inside. Andrew and John loosened their clothing and began to realize how desperately thirsty they were. Jesus brought them water and they drank and began to talk.

For Andrew and John, the words Lamb of God meant both lamb and also servant of God. As Jesus spoke to them through the remainder of the afternoon and into the night it was clear to both that the words also meant Messiah. Andrew and John had indeed found the long-awaited Messiah—the Anointed One..

At first light the next morning, Andrew was off to



find his brother, Simon, and tell him the good news. John went to find James.

Arriving back where Jesus stayed, Andrew and Simon stood silent. Jesus looked upon Simon for the first time. It was a moment of recognition, for this was the man who would one day lead the Church that Jesus would raise.

Eyes fixed on one another, Jesus declared: “You are Simon, son of John; your name shall be Peter.”



In each of our lives are many moments of recognition. We discover our bliss, our passion in life; our first love. Fortunately, we each discover Jesus in our own way, on our own “road to Emaus.” We recognize him in the breaking of the bread.

One of Rudyard Kipling’s poems speaks of friendship, saying that when we find worthy friends we should “bind them to our soul with hoops of steel.” May your encounter with Christ bind you to him with hoops made of love—unbreakable hoops that will last for this lifetime and beyond.