



Message: **Nothing Better To Do** | January 18, 2026 | Speaker: **Pastor Eddie Eddy**

John 1:29-42 New International Version (NIV)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

L: This is the word of God for the people of God

P: Thanks be to God.

Nothing Better To Do

How do you spend your idle time? The time you have when you are not committed to a responsibility that you have to get done. I know some people who knit, some people might read. Some folks have hobbies like golfing, hunting, fishing, getting together with friends and playing cards. I know as Americans we watch a lot of TV. Mindless time where we are only being entertained, were not really doing anything.

When I was out in the bush in Africa we had a lot of down time between hunts and in the evenings. We would go out in the morning and walk 10 – 15 miles and then we would go back to camp and relax for lunch. My hunting buddies would usually sneak in a short power nap before we would head out to walk another 10 miles or so in the afternoon.

I didn't sleep much while I was there so I would hang out with the Guys in the camp. I didn't speak any of their languages so I would just sit and watch them interact with each other. This turned out to be one of my most treasured and life changing experiences in Africa. Witnessing how these guys related to each other was a gift from God to me.

Out in the bush we had no electricity. So that means no TV, no radio, no cell service. None of the entertainment we take for granted here. One thing I noticed my African friends doing while they sat around shooting the breeze...entertaining each other...was making tea. They did it every day. They each had a small teapot and a small cup, not much bigger than a shot glass.

As they sat around in conversation with each other, they would brew this tea. They would heat the water up in this little tea pot and they would have their cup ready. And by "ready" I mean they had their cup about $\frac{3}{4}$ full with sugar and just a speck or two of tea leaf shavings.

When the water was hot...they would pour the hot water into the cup and then they would pour it back into the pot. Into the cup and back into the pot. Back and forth, back and forth...all while having a blast telling stories and laughing.

When it cooled down...they would heat it up again and the whole thing would start over. They did this every time we were idle. Here is the thing about this task of brewing this tea. Not once did I ever see any one of them **drink it**. They would spend hours a day, back and forth, brewing this tea...and never drank it. I was baffled. I asked my hunting buddies why they spent all this time on this tea and never tasted it and I was told they did it simply because...they had nothing better to do.

Nothing better to do?

As I read our Gospel passage for this morning it brought back to mind my friends in the African bush. I pictured John and his disciples standing around fixing fishing nets or cleaning honeycombs or maybe pulling the wings off some delicious locust for lunch. Whatever they were doing...they were killing time because they had nothing better to do.

*For some reason I picture them on the shoreline, but the Gospel doesn't really say where they are, just that John was with his disciples and he saw Jesus coming and said, "Hey look, there's the Lamb of God".

Two, two of John's comrades heard him say something about who Jesus was, and because they had nothing better to do, they pursued Jesus. Suddenly...they had something to do... something important to do...Follow Jesus. And because they did, "Christianity" began.

So let me ask you:

How would your life be different if there were no Christians? How would it be different if you were not a Christian? What would you do if you didn't know Christ? For a lot of us...who have lived our whole lives...in this country...surrounded by Christian people...(even when they don't act like it)...it's hard to imagine a life without our Christian values and morals.

But what if you had never had the opportunity to meet Jesus, to walk with him and talk with him? What effect would that have on your life? Would your life be better or worse...or would it be the same?

What if we didn't have this church? What would you miss about church? Would you miss the music, the message (I Hope)? You know...I would never have sung out loud, in public, if it wasn't for church on Sundays.

How many people do you know that would not be your friends if Christianity never happened? If you had never met this church family, how great of a loss would that be?

What would you do on Sunday mornings? How would you spend your time differently during the week? Would you just be at home making tea because you had nothing better to do?

How different would your life be if you weren't a Christian?

Ask yourself this: Do you feel good about the time you spend helping strangers? Do you regret all the money you've given to God to see his Kingdom spread? Are there things that, because you know Christ have made your life better, like hope-filled books that you're glad you read, or the times you have experienced God's grace in worship. Wouldn't you miss the blessing that you feel when you care for a hurting family? If you were not a Christian, would your life be less interesting, or... could you think of something better to do?

SHORT PAUSE

I want to believe...that every once in a while, the disciples thought about how different their lives would have been if they had never met Jesus. What if John the Baptist had kept silent as two of his students watched Jesus walk by?

But he didn't. John says, "There he is. That's the one. I've heard you guys talk, You know how cocky I can be, but I'm telling you right now, I'm not worthy enough to tie that guy's sandals."

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That's saying something for John. He had a reputation for being pretty sure of himself, so for him to admit that...this is the guy who outranks him by a long shot...is quite a revelation by John the Baptist.

So when their leader says something like this, well, that sparks the interest of two of John's disciples. They want to see what this Jesus guy is all about...so they start following him as he walks by.

Jesus turns and asks his new shadows, "What are you looking for?" They answer nervously, "We thought we would see where you're staying." In other words, "We don't have nothing better to do, so we're wondering what you're doing." Jesus then offers the invitation that will change their lives. He simply says, "Come and see."

So they did. They followed Jesus around like a couple of puppies all day because they were interested in what he was doing. If you think about it, they have no idea what they are getting themselves into. They have no clue that they'll end up leaving everything behind, their nets, their boats, their homes, their friends and families, even their work. They will end up changing their minds about almost everything they held true. All because they had nothing better to do...than follow Jesus.

Andrew does what Andrew does best. Andrew is only mentioned a couple of times in the New Testament. This time and at the feeding of the 5000. In both cases he is bringing someone to Jesus. In the feeding of the 5000 he brings the boy with the 2 fish and the 5 loaves. In this passage he's bringing his brother to meet The Lamb of God.

He goes to get Simon and says, "You have to come and see this guy," And for some reason...Simon goes. Not necessarily because he wants to or because he has this great faith...but more than likely, because he too is curious and he's hoping that after this, his brother will just leave him alone.

But when Jesus meets Simon, the first thing he does is change Simon's name. He says, "Your name is going to be Peter (or Rock)." I don't think Simon was really known for his dependability to be a solid foundation and his stability...but

everything...everything is starting to change now that he has met the Messiah. Simon begins questioning his purpose in life. What has he been doing and why?

SHORT PAUSE

I don't know about you...but I sometimes wonder the same.

What are we looking for? Why do we worship? Why do we go to church? Some of us go because our parents didn't give us a choice growing up. For some of us, we still hear our mother's voice telling us to go to church, and we can't get it out of our heads. Some of us go because it's easier than arguing with our spouse about it.

We can get into the routine of going to worship without any great expectations. Sure, were interested in thinking about how we could live better lives or help some people out, the music is always good. We get to see some friends and have some coffee and a cookie. What the heck, I got nothing better to do.

I'll say this, that's what Andrew and his brother and their friend thought too. We got nothing going, let's follow him and see where it takes us.

PAUSE

Jesus says, "Come and see." And the disciples stumble along, following without knowing where they are going, until they figure out that they have wandered onto a path that leads to God's grace. "Come and see," Jesus says, and then, the disciples soon tasted water turned into wine, they watched as Jesus cleared the temple. They listened with amazement as Jesus revealed the Good news around the countryside. They witnessed healing and comfort, and miracle after miracle.

They set out on this journey because they thought they had nothing better to do and now they have seen things they never could have imagined.

What are we looking to do when we come here? Deep in our souls, are we looking for something to believe in and hold on to, something important enough to live for, and something big enough to devote our time to? Are we are looking for a challenge...are we looking for purpose?

"Come and see" is how the disciples' story begins. It's a great way to start a story. "You got nothing to do? Come and see what I'm doing" is the invitation to explore, to discover, and to travel without knowing exactly where we are going. But...if we have nothing better to do... what have we got to lose? Come and see. Come and look for places where we've never been. Come and see what it means to hope, to believe, and to follow.

We are here, in this church this morning to open ourselves to God, who will lead us to new places. The people who follow Jesus know that there is "**nothing better to do**" than doing the things that Jesus did.

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While I watched my African friends make their tea that they never drank, I realized that it wasn't that they had nothing to do. They were really doing something that Jesus modeled for us. They were sharing with each other. They were genuinely connecting with each other. They were caring for each other.

The truth is, we have nothing better to do than care for the hurting, nothing better to do than to listen to the lonely, nothing better to do than to feed the hungry, to pray for the brokenhearted, to bandage those who are wounded, to comfort those in prison. There is nothing better to do...than join together...share in each other's joys and carry each other's burdens...all in the light of God's grace.

There is, without doubt, "nothing better to do" than be in continual worship through our service. We come to seek the meaning of life, join with people on the journey, and ask God to help us see where his grace will lead us next. We come to share the gifts we've been given and the needs of the world. We come to discover the possibilities. We come because in our hearts...we know **there is nothing better to do**.

To God be the Glory! Amen.

Next Steps:

- I will "Come and see" what Jesus is doing"
- I will pray for the kids and caretakers of Interhope
- I will pray about a financial gift for Interhope before January 25