

**JAN 23RD 2005: FIRST RECORDED WORDS OF JESUS IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL: JOHN 1:29-39: COME**

Who can tell....a red letter Bible is?? If you have one with you hold it up..

Now turn to Matt.....what are the first red words ??? 3:15

Turn to Luke....first red words.....2:49.....

Turn to John's Gospel.....**1:37 *What do you want?...Come and you will see***

These words were spoken to two men....disciples of John the Baptist Andrew/John

They had heard what John had been saying.....
about the imminent coming of.... God's Kingdom.....

→**A time of rescue**....but also judgment

And not only did they believe.....Wanted to be part of it.... Passion

They would have heard many times....John stressing the need to be cleansed.....

And had no doubt sought....for themselves

But their worry been for so many others.....who hadn't....would be caught out

Consequently when John one day....directed their attention to a certain person ...

Look the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world....ears pricked up

Someone who John believed to be the answer.....worth getting to know

That's why...when John said again on the following day.....***Look the Lamb...***

They left John and began to walk after.....Hoping to see...and to hear.....

But Jesus has this wonderful habit of noticing people

He saw themand challenged them with the question.....What do you want?

It's a good question for us to stop and ponder

What answer would you give.....if He said to you....What do you want?

Deep down in the depths of....What do you truly want from Jesus ???

I think those two disciples were taken by surprise by the question
Either that or the glib answers...didn't seem sufficient....as they looked into eyes..

For what they replied seems a little strange at first
(*Rabbi, where are you staying?*)

Until we realise.....that these men were really saying to Jesus
It's not a matter of what we want.....But who we want to be with....YOU

Where are you staying.....Because that's where we want to be too

The response that Jesus gave.....is truly wonderful.....
because He knew their hearts desire....AND to their deep desire He responds
with the words....."*Come, and you will see*"

These first words of Jesus recorded by John ...are a challenge...
➔*What do you want*
followed by the call of faith.....➔*Come, and you will see*

In these few words....we find so much of the ministry of Jesus
He comes into the world the offer of Salvation.....The chance for us to be sons..
And He asks.....What do you want?

And the answer that thrills Him.....is when a person replies
I want to be with You.....and You to be within me

I never ever want you to be away from my side
I want you next to me when I stand on that Day before the Father

I want your presence with me here on earth.....happy...sad
When I Enjoy the good....suffer through the bad : make mistakes &

*I have a clear memory of a day many years ago....Pastors conference York
We had gathered together for a meeting.....30-40 Pastors
One Pastor was speaking.....Pushy type.....going to do great things...Get paid
the most Thing about big flashy cars.....Spirit of judgment
At this times things were falling apart*

*He talked about all those things And what he sensed we felt about him
But he said you are wrong...those things mean nothing.....car keys....Close
with Jesus*

Since then I have often thought about that.....and about the question...
What do I truly want from Jesus

To be quite honest.....Just a little bit more money
More things liketake away the problems.....Good health for all I love
Lots of people saying nice things about me....Keeping everyone happy

Yet in more recent years...I've discovered...that what I really want
is to be close to Him.....
To have the sense of being where He wants me to be...because that's where He is

(Steve Dunjey)

The glorious thing is that Jesus is always theresaying COME

Think for a moment how precious a word COME can be
(At a new High School.....come and join us)

When Jesus says come.....It is always a good WORD

Matt 11:28 Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

The rest....does not mean no burden....But it's a burden we carry together
And the rest....is for our souls

John 7:37 Jesus said....If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. By this He meant the Spirit

Again we need to note.....that He satisfies our thirst.....
But in so doing makes us a river.....of spiritual blessing....to others

This morning we are here....and so is Jesus

And to each of us He turns.....

To the new believers....still trying to make sense of so much

To the long term Christian.....who at times wonders...any progress being made

And to the person on the fringe of knowing Him

And it's the same question He asks →What do you want from me

And the answer he loves to hear....is.....**Lord I want to be where you are**

And then He....who knows our every need.....says Come

And when we totally entrust ourselves to his embrace

He will lead us.....show us....use us....enable us

Along the way that together He and you will go.

