Many people refer to today’s “younger” generation, that is those who are in their teens and 20’s as the Generation Y. Another name for that group is the Millennial. You know if you were born after WWII between 1946-64, you are considered as the Baby Boomer. If you are born between 1965-1980, you are a Generation X and then there’s the Generation Y (1981-2000)…..that is “Why” as in W-H-Y, not the letter “Y”.

Some say they’re called Generation Why because they always ask the question “Why?” Why is this? or Why is that? Why can’t you do this? Why can’t you do that? Why not this? Why not that?

Gen Y are not afraid to challenge the established order or the authority. They like to go out of their way in order to get to the bottom of the issue. They are constantly on a quest for answers to their questions.

Just *what are we looking for, anyway?* Often times we might be asking this question when we are searching for a new job, choosing a career, yearning for a relationship. In a church context, we might be asking ourselves, *what is God’s vision for the church going forward in the future? How can we be a part of God’s mission here on earth?* These are all valid questions, and there are no right or wrong answers. But the more questions we ask, the more we may discover how little we know.

I remember on my very first day of classes at Princeton Seminary, the former president Dr. Thomas Gillespie addressed to the entire seminary student and faculties. He said, To this day I still remember what he told to us when it comes to why….why should we pursue a theological education? He said *“the larger the radius of knowledge, the greater the circumference of the unknowns.*  In other word, **the more we think we know, the more we realize how little or how much more that we still dont know**. I think he does have a point. Our human knowledge is just a tiny fraction compared to what is really out there.

In the passage that we read earlier in the gospel of John, Jesus was asking two of John’s followers, who later became His disciples *“****what are you looking for?*** These two followers have been stalking Jesus since the baptism event by the Jordan. They were there to witness the whole baptism event. They became curious about who this Jesus was. Was this guy legit or what?

Perhaps these disciples were looking for some kind of an affirmation of whether He was indeed the prophesized Messiah. Instead of simply telling them about His true identity, Jesus invited them to ***“Come and See*** for themselves. Here, go ahead. You can check me out! Spend some time with me and you’ll find out for yourself. **Don’t just listen to what other people are saying, see it for yourself, believe it, and tell others about it! That’s the bottom line.**

**Jesus’s response to the disciples inquisitive mind resulted in a personal invitation to a deeper relationship and a lifelong commitment to follow Christ.** But it didn’t end there. These disciples’ commitment to Christ led them to lead others into Christ as well, as in the case of Andrew who went out to tell his brother Simon Peter, about the new found Messiah. One by one, that was how the disciples were recruited. No one was forcing them nor were they obligated. They came to seek Jesus and to follow Him on their own.

But like those two disciples, *what are we looking for in Jesus, anyway?* To different people, that could mean different things. **Everybody’s needs and expectations are uniquely different.** Somepeople may be looking for a sense of spiritual belonging or a guardian of some sort who can protect them from danger and to help them during times of trials and struggles in life. But is that all what we expect of our Savior and our Messiah? Certainly not!

Many people turn to solutions other than God for spiritual answers. They are looking for some sense of personal security in an insecure world. A few months ago, I was walking around Barnes N Nobles, I came across the sections labelled as Astrology, Spirituality and the New Age sections. I was amazed by the many people (many are Generation Y) who were browsing in those sections. Apparently there were great deal of interests in books written **about the future** **or the unknown** through the stars or some forms of higher supernatural power or spiritual beings. Sadly when I got to the section that’s marked “Religion”, that aisle was empty was nobody there.

Many people these days may identify themselves as spiritual but not necessarily as religious. (This includes our new mayor for the city.) They may believe in some form of higher spiritual being or some kind of a Creator, but they come short of acknowledging the existence of God. They may have lots of questions on their mind, but they would search for a scientific explanation or until they find something that they feel that they can accept or be satisfied with? **That’s a rather self-serving and self-motivating way of looking at religion and spirituality**.

In our text today, when Jesus was calling upon his first disciples to *Come and See,* He was in essence calling ALL of us to look no further from the obvious signs. We need to demonstrate our initiative by coming and searching for our answers.

Like the Wisemen who came to worship the Christ-child during this season of Epiphany, we too are being called to follow this star of Christ and to go back out into the field and to let others know about this Messiah that we’ve found. We invite others to come along for this faith expedition. **Through their journey, the Wisemen would not have made it if they were only guided by the star but they followed their hearts and their faith.**

Ironically, in our passage today, we’ve noticed that Jesus was being referred to by his disciples in 3 different names and titles - **Lamb of God** (v36), **Rabbi**, which means Teacher(v38), **Messiah**, which means the Annointed One(v41). If we had continued further in this passage, Jesus was referred to 3 other names or titles - **Son of Joseph from Nazareth** (v45), **Son of God** (v49), and **King of Israel** (v49).

Were the disciples so clueless about who they were dealing with? What didn’t they get? Hello?? Didn’t they know who this Jesus was? Perhaps these disciples weren’t even 100% sure of who this Jesus was. It was kind of like throw it all out there and see what lands…“Hit and Miss”. One of them has gotten to be right.

But Jesus didn’t really want to be known for by the titles. He simply wanted to be known for **by His works, by the message that He proclaimed, by the story that He witnessed and by the promises that He has fulfilled in this bigger story of God’s salvation for humankind.**

The more we learn about Jesus, the more we realize how little that we know about Him. Jesus’s earthly ministry was only a brief 3 years. We must look at the larger picture of God’s plan for humanity. Not only shall we think “outside the box”, we need to think of a “BIGGER BOX” all together. Never underestimate what God has installed for all of us. God’s plan is NOT our plan. God’s timing is certainly NOT ours either.

**To know someone is to develop a deeper relationship with that person.** When Jesus asked his disciples to Come and See, he wasn’t just asking them to come and have dinner with Him. But Jesus was asking them to stay with him and to follow Him for the rest of their lives. Like those early disciples, we must be willing to “let go and let God” of everything we’ve got, including all of their possessions, families and career, in order to follow Jesus.

The disciples took Jesus’s personal invitation seriously and without hesitation they went, and saw it for themselves for those 3 years that they spent with Him. They came not knowing what they were looking for, but they came anyway, and now they had been found.

Furthermore, when the disciples recognized who Jesus was as the true Messiah, they went out to tell others about this. This phenomenon was a chain reaction, one telling of another. Each One Reach One! It’s a Domino Effect. It’s perhaps one of the most effective and personal way of inviting others into a covenant relationship with Christ. There was no mass e-mails, no web site or social media, but simply by the word of mouth, one person at a time.

Andrew was the first disciple who acknowledged who Jesus truly was, then Andrew went and told his brother Simon Peter. Next came Philip then Nathanael....so on and so forth….you get the idea. The truth of the matter is, **it was the work of the Holy Spirit that stirred the hearts of those disciples. It was the Holy Spirit who softened their harden hearts and gave them courage and the boldness to overcome their fear. They were empowered to share their story and experience with others. They “came and saw”.**

I had a High School and College friend. Her name was Doris. Doris grew up in a traditional Buddhist family. After repeatedly I tried to invite her to come to church (or even just church related functions), she refused to believe that there is a God in this world. She was an atheist! There is no God in this world. I am who I am, and that’s all it matters most.

She and I often got into conversation about our differences in religious viewpoints and how our lives may have different priorities and values. For years, I have been praying that someday she would come to know God and to acknowledge Christ as her personal Lord and Savior.

To make the long story short, a couple of years ago, I received a Facebook friend invitation from Doris. She told me was that she was getting baptized in a few weeks during Easter along with one of her sons. She wanted to thank me for introducing Christ to her in her life way back when we were in High School. I was so thrilled to hear about her and so thankful to God for what God has done in her life through all this time. This was truly the work of the Holy Spirit.

When it comes to our spiritual journey, Christs personal invitation to us to Come and See is an OPEN one. We are all invited to come to this party and to see for ourselves of what God has planned for all of us.

One time my mom and my sister were invited to my mom’s friend’s 80th birthday celebration banquet. On the bottom of the invitation, it says *Your Presence is Requested, but No Gift Please*. The man did not want to receive any more gifts to the celebration. He was trying to get rid of stuff at his home. All he wanted was the presence of his friends to come and have a great time to celebrate life as God has given to him.

Friends, God has also extended an invitation for us to attend His heavenly banquet. We cannot have a party with just ourselves. It would be so boring and would’ve done a great disservice to our witnesses to God’s mission. We want to invite as many people as we can.  **Christ knows exactly what we are looking for in our lives.** All we have to do is simply reply to His personal invitation and to **Go and See** and to invite others to come along for the journey.

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, Amen.