**Excitement Brewing**

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| **Slides** | **Sermon** |
| 1 | Title slide – **Excitement Brewing** John 1:35-51 |
| 2 | Introduction—story of excitement:  Once when the boys were about 8 & 6 we got them still and got their attention focused. That was a job in itself. But once that was done, we told them that for vacation that year we were going to Disney World! You should have seen them. Their eyes got wide as saucers! You could also see doubt in their faces as if we were joking. Then when they realized it was true, they go so excited, as did we when we saw their excitement. And immediately they couldn’t wait to tell their friends! |
| 3 | How much more exciting is the news John the Baptist offered by the Jordan River, “one will come after me who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.” John referred to Jesus as the “Lamb of God.” To us who have read and heard this scripture all our lives, it is not too exciting. But consider what John was actually saying. The image of the Lamb in the religious sense was one whom would replace the many perfect lambs that were sacrificed for the sins of the Jewish people. As John is telling the people up front and at the beginning of John’s Gospel, Jesus’ main purpose: Jesus would take on the world’s sin and become the permanent, lasting sacrifice for our sins.  Thus, Jesus creates a way to restore our relationship with a loving but perfect, holy and pure God! Furthermore, John testifies Jesus is the Son of God! |
| 4 | Now consider how those followers of John the Baptist and those being baptized by him must have felt! They are eyewitnesses of the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. They are eyewitnesses to seeing the very Son of God. One of those disciples was Andrew. He went to where Jesus was staying and spent the afternoon with Jesus. He was convinced Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the One the Old Testament prophesied about! His response was to go tell his brother Simon. Jesus knew Simon was the son of John and told him he would from there on be called Peter, meaning *rock*!  Before even meeting Simon Jesus knew his name, his parents and what his future would hold. Both Andrew and Simon are astounded and excited and chose to follow Jesus. |
| 5 | Let’s stop for a moment. The same is true about us. Jesus knows our names; Jesus knows our parents. In fact, Jesus knows our whole history. And Jesus knows our potential to become more than we think. Jesus can take our present life, our past and change it for a greater tomorrow. |
| 6 | Peter got more than just what the Lamb of God can do—i.e. salvation to a right relationship with a perfect God, but he also got an exciting future of ministry to open the church to the world.  Recall at Pentecost, Peter preached under the power of the Holy Spirit and more than 3,000 were saved! That’s amazing, isn’t it? That’s exciting, isn’t it? |
| 7 | How Jesus encounters Philip—Jesus’ response is a simple 2 words, “Follow me.” This is Philip’s call to discipleship. In the Greek, the word to follow means “accompany, attend, join.” It paints a picture of walking the same road as Jesus conforming wholly to His example and clinging steadfastly to Him. Thus, Jesus is asking Philip to pattern his life after Him and walk the same road, whatever it held! This brings us to another important point about our relationship with Jesus. Jesus never saved us for heaven only; so we can forget Him and live on earth as we choose! Attached to salvation is serving Jesus in your day-to-day life. |
| 8 | Jesus saves you for heaven so He can use you for His purpose on earth. So “following Jesus” means living a life of obedience to Him.  If you accept salvation and then go your own way not following Jesus, then you will reap the repercussions of your independence from Him. And that is never good.  Conclusion here: Can’t divorce your salvation from a life of obedience, i.e. discipleship. |
| 9 | Now, Philip is excited to meet and follow Jesus. He can’t wait to share this. So, he goes to Nathanael (1:46) and tells him we have found the one Moses tells about in the law and what the prophet wrote—Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth is the Messiah! Nathanael’s reaction was honest, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” He is not excited.  Nazareth had a bad reputation.   * Poor, no-nothing town * Not located in a good place * No high class, important people came from Nazareth   Jesus’ response to Nathanael, “Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.” You see Jesus knew all about Nathanael, “an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael is astounded that Jesus knows him. Now he is excited! But Jesus does, just like Jesus knows all about us! Jesus knows everything about everything because he is the WORD—God incarnate! Just think, Jesus knows everything about you, and still wants to love and to save you ! Is that not exciting?  Nathanael is excited and declares “Jesus to be the Son of God; King of Israel.” Then Jesus says he will see greater things—the Son of God, with angels descending and ascending from heaven to earth and back. Why? Because Nathanael believed Jesus word! |
| 10 | When we take Jesus at His word then the promise is that we will see more of heaven on earth!  Faith in what Jesus says yields being able to see more of who Jesus is!  Do we not limit what God will show us because we just don’t take Jesus at His word?  Tony Evans says it this way—“If you take Jesus at His word, then you will see more of Jesus in this life!”  This faith comes before sight! if we believe in Jesus then we will see more of Jesus in our lives! Now that is exciting! |
|  | Many of us who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior, don’t see more of God in this world because we just don’t believe Jesus’ word.  Many have developed a style of living as if they are secret agent Christians or covert operative Christians.  We try to be Christian without going against the part of the world that goes against Christ.  We “lay low” so as not to get noticed as a good-to-shoes Christian or a Christian that thinks they are better than everyone else.  But Jesus is clear here. If you are ashamed to publicly confess Jesus is the Christ, then you will limit yourself from seeing heaven and earth meet in your life!  Thus, if we proclaim Jesus is the Christ, then you will experience Jesus more in your life! |
| 11 | **Conclusion**—So how do you regain that excitement of when you met Jesus and gave your life to Him?  1) Perhaps we should contemplate eternity during this Lenten season—What is eternity like without Jesus? Without being with God and your loved who followed Christ? )Pause)  2) How are you following Jesus? What do your social media accounts reflect how you follow Jesus? How do your bank accounts follow how you follow Jesus? How do your network of friends reflect show how you follow Jesus? How have you shared your faith with others and encouraged them to follow Jesus? |
| 12 | In John’s Gospel, Jesus is clearly the Son of God, the incarnate WORD. When these first disciples met Jesus it created such excitement! And they followed Him!  Do you take Jesus at His word?  Do you realize the depth and wealth of what Jesus offers you?  John’s Gospel really wants you not to miss out! This is real hope now!  **Are you excited to follow Jesus. Are you excited enough to tell others about Him?**  **Don't miss out on this great gift of Jesus - salvation with a life of meaning and purpose! Embrace it and let your excitment for Jesus overflow from your life to others!** |
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