

we're starting a new sermon series in the book of Job if you don't like the book of John you found the wrong place but I think that there is some really good things in here for you and I more we talk about John the Baptist a little bit last week in in this study and we are going to look at him again and we're going to see how he interacts with Jesus and and there's going to be some insight for you on and I on how we can interact with Jesus as well by the way I know that a lot of you are we've already talked about this in the service today a lot of you are going through some difficult times in some pain and with uncle Alan in the hospital and all the different things I think we're going to find some courage in here I think God has a word of encouragement for us today and I think that when we focus on him and going through the difficult times in our life we can see God's faithfulness it gives us an opportunity to draw close to him and to be near him and that's why James says consider it pure joy when we go through various trials right and so let's um let's go to God's Word and and find what he has for us to learn today John chapter one again the last couple weeks we've talked about the word being made flesh we talked about that on Christmas Day the heavenly perspective on Jesus coming to this earth we talked about the John the Baptist and how John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus and so as we look at this we're going to kind of continue the story that we started last week this is the story then done people are asking John Baptist they thought he was the Messiah they got all John he must be the Messiah so they go and they asked him are you the Messiah and he says no I'm not the messiah or are you the Prophet no I'm not the Prophet are you Elijah no I'm not Elijah I'm the one that has been sent to make a straight path for Jesus and Jesus is coming and all of of the earth all of heaven all the Jewish nation have been waiting and waiting and waiting for Messiah to come and finally he has arrived and finally he's on the scene I tell you what going through life with Messiah is a whole lot better than going through life without him we found out last week that light and life come through him and so if we want to experience life not just like living life but like a zoe life like an abundant life that that comes through Jesus we also talked about some coincidences that happened in the book of John how the light the creator of the world came to earth and the creation didn't recognize him we talked about how the darkness didn't recognize the light when the light showed up and so let's continue on that plane let's talk about this and let's let's looking in the Bible John chapter verse says this again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples and he looked at Jesus and he walked and said behold the lamb of God the two disciples heard him speak and they followed Jesus now again John the Baptist was sent to earth and he was set with a specific mission a lot of us maybe we don't get a specific mission before we're born but even when John the Baptist was in the womb of his mother he had a job to do and God had set him apart to do something special and that was to be the forerunner for Jesus his job in modern terms was to make a highway to Jesus to level the trees to level the mountains to fill the valleys and make a straight and easy path for people to get to Jesus and again that is the job of all believers but that was John the Baptist specific job and we talked about this quote by microcar a couple weeks and he basically said this way he said you know what it's impossible to underestimate the popularity of John the Baptist you know every time John the Baptist got recognition from people he deflected it it came to him and he pointed to God he never said yeah I'm pretty great I've got a bunch of good things going on he was a humble man that said look it's not about me it's about Jesus and he uses this phrase behold the lamb of God we talked about that last week if you want to hear a little bit about that it'll be on the internet in a few weeks here and you can listen to that we got really deep into that but look at verse did the two disciples heard him speak and they followed Jesus now I want to explain a little something about Jewish culture so that we can kind of understand what it means to be a disciple because we talk about discipleship a lot in the church we talk about being a disciple of Jesus and what did it mean well what happened was back in those days the Jewish nation believed in the education of their men of their boys and so when you were young you started school and you learn how to do some reading and some writing and some things like that but it wasn't until you became about about years old most Jewish men quit school and they became an apprentice in some kind of

trade somewhere so if your dad was a carpenter like Joseph was a carpenter when his boys got to be years old they became an apprentice carpenter and they would become a carpenter and Jesus was a carpenter by trade he was a he was a working man he had rough hands he had strong muscles he was able he had some skills that he brought to his culture into his society because he was an apprentice to his father Joseph and he had beginning he became a a carpenter now at age what would happen if you if you were really smart and you were really bright and you were up hate to use the word fortunate but if you were fortunate a person would choose you a rabbi you could become a rabbi when you're years old and after you became a out a rabbi you would choose disciples and so you would go out and you would find the brightest young men in your society and you would offer them a discipleship position hey so once you became and you became a rabbi you would go and you would choose disciples alright and then there was one other rule after you had been a rabbi for a teacher and you had been a teacher for years you when you turn you could begin to write things down okay you weren't allowed to write a book and tell you are years old and Jewish culture back in those days ok there's there's some wisdom there isn't there and maybe you should learn some things before you try to teach other people some things ok but the only time we ever see Jesus writing in the Bible remember that time when they brought the woman caught in adultery and he writes on the dirt you ever wonder why we don't have writings from Jesus we have writings from his followers but not from Jesus and that might be part of the reason ok the other thing that's interesting is windy Jesus start his earthly ministry he started his earthly ministry when he was years old he followed the culture at years old he became a rabbi and he went and he chose disciples and we're going to see some of that today okay and he said come and follow me now most people that followed a rabbi that were a disciple you had about a year to to years old to get a rabbi and after that you were a working man you were in the working force and you weren't going to get around by a couple of them may have gotten disciples later now I don't know what you think about you if you get this visual picture of Jesus and you have this picture of like a bunch of old dudes walking around doing ministry you're you're you're probably wrong ok what we see in Jesus are our churches modern-day equivalent is like a youth pastor with a youth group ok most of the disciples were probably between and years of age ok fact remember that time in the Bible where they said to Jesus they said hey there's a temple tax that's do there's a temple tax that's do and everybody who's of age needs to pay the temple tax so that means you and Peter need to pay the temple tax you know what age you had to be to pay the temple tax or when you have to start paying and started paying the temple tax when you were years old remember the story Jesus says hey take your hook go down to the bay throw it in catch a fish open the mouth full the calling out and go pay the temple tax for you and I is what he says so there's eleven disciples that don't have to pay a temple tax that means well i'm not saying specifically but we can presume that that means that there's teenagers under the age of okay by the way John is one of the disciples of Jesus he's the one writing the book the book of Revelation is also written by John ad is the date that we have on that book that's years later right take years later so plus is about take off somewhere between he'd have to be that young in order to be a lot of in right now I don't know if that changes your perspective but once a once a rabbi had a disciple man you be that was your job that was your mission in life was to teach this disciple to be a godly person you didn't like give up your disciples he didn't give them away it wasn't like you know can be my disciple for a couple weeks now it was like you lived life together they started when they were years old and they lived with you and if you were a rabbi they they served you and that you know when he had to cook some food you're probably wasn't you that was cooking the food was probably the disciples when there's a bathroom to be cleaned who do you think would clean the the rabbi or the disciple okay now think about this for a second when God calls us to be disciples did you have that picture cleaning toilets and cooking food but Jesus says hey look that the servant the master is greater than the servant remember Jesus when he is showing the disciples how to live their life and he washes their feet ok now let's look at this first again we have John the Baptist

Jonathan's got a amazing ministry that's how we use today's term he got all these people he's got all these people that are coming to be baptized season and then you got this you got this mega church going on right and then you got a little little uh little baby church happening with Jesus there's a couple disciples or whatever but look at what happens in verse and we have already read this but he says the two disciples heard him speak and they follow Jesus so John's disciples are being sent to Jesus do you get the sense that maybe John the Baptist is just this devoted person to the kingdom of God that I don't know what he felt inside but he's like it doesn't really matter what I feel inside I have to do what's right for the kingdom of God and and this is the Messiah and I have to come in second to him remember last week he said I'm not even worthy to untie his sandals I'm not even worthy to get down on the ground and to untie that thing and so John really has a good idea of who Jesus is and and for you and I sometimes we forget that we forgetting that Jesus is Messiah that Jesus is God that Jesus deserves or everything that we have and if we have to give up some things for Jesus it's all worth it okay look at verse with me Jesus turned her and he saw them following and he said to them what do you seek and they said to him rabbi which translated means teacher where are you staying and he said to them common you will see so they came and saw where he was staying and they stayed with him for a day for it was about the tenth hour one of the two who heard John speak and follow him was Andrew simon Peters brother he found first his own brother Simon and he said to him we have found the Messiah which translated means Christ he brought him to Jesus Jesus look at him and said you are Simon son of John you shall be called Cephas which translated is Peter ok now let's let's go back and will kind of look at this we got a couple disciples that are following Jesus by the way underline in verse if you found out that it's fun to underline in your Bible here's an underline word that they followed him in verse Jesus turned and saw them following following that is the job of a disciple the job of a disciple is to follow the rap by the way that's also the job of the believer in Jesus Christ is to follow behind him right now in order to follow there's a couple things that are very important the first one is this you have to know where the master is ok if you and I are going about our daily business and we're just kind of doing what we want to do and then and then all suddenly show up on Sunday and we we do our church thing for awhile it but we get off into our weekend and we forget where Jesus is it's really hard to follow someone when you don't know where they are the other thing about following somebody is is sometimes it's difficult isn't it they don't always go where you want them to go and sometimes in our lives we get caught these little ruts meet you know right is don't you ruts kind of a grave with the two ends kicked out of it we get hot in on these ruts and we get stuck and we we start it's really hard to follow when you're stuck in a rut ok and so you and I need to follow Jesus look at this next part interesting he turns to them they're following him he turns to them and he says what do you seek ok now that's a pretty profound question you know when we're reading through this sometimes we we breathe through these but the words here are important okay now think about this for just a second you get a conversation with the god of the universe who created heaven and earth and he turns to you and he says to you what do you seek what's your question going to be I don't know what your question is going to be I don't know if my question is gonna be okay but it's not this where are you staying where's your house where you hanging out that's not my question ok that's a question that these disciples asked him where he saying now it's interesting because he answers them he says you know what are you guys looking for what are you seeking well where do where you live and he takes them to the place where he lives now what if they would have asked something different would Jesus have answered that question as well now i don't know i can't go where the Bible doesn't take me but one thing I do want to kind of reflect to you analyze this sometimes in our prayer life and sometimes in our life in general we pray for things that you know really aren't a big deal we got used to a prayer thing when i was in youth ministry and we would at the end of our bible lesson we pray and we'd we'd take prayer requests we write them on the board then we pray for him and so every week we'd have some of the same might say what you guys need to perform they say well we had one kid every week at the

same prayer requests know you wanted snow ok now it didn't matter if it was January or June he wanted snow and then the girl that was on the other side of the room she would say no snow so we're praying for snow and no snow I don't know how that happens but that's what we are praying for and then someone would say uh yeah my next-door neighbor has an aunt who has a dog who is kind of sick right now could we pray for the dog I'm like no we you know we got to a point will pray for people but we won't pay for animals okay we don't we quit praying for animals after we got a lot of and then we get some things like well this person is you know could you pray for safety will they travel when you pray for book and and we we get this list of things on the board and it was thinking we could accomplish by ourselves well or we blast haha you know how do we know Lord is blessing but we do know that don't we if it's good it's from the Lord and it's a blessing right but how's your prayer life first of all do you have a prayer life is it significant but secondly are you asking for things you can't do by yourself I mean is it really a prayer if I said lord help me to get three meals today I'm going to get three meals today maybe hopefully lord willing but are we praying for things that we can accomplish by yourself is it all about our health and our wealth and these things that we can now I'm not saying that we should pray for those things but what I'm saying is this if we can it's not a big leap of faith if we're praying for things that we can do by ourselves right and sometimes we asked Jesus says what are you looking for what do you seek where do you stay I want to encourage you to expand your prayer life oh I want to be the kind of guy who prays for things I can't do by myself and then sees God do them in my life there the disciples here they're concerned about their physical accommodations instead of the Messiah you know they're gonna follow him and they're worried about where they're going to sleep instead of what is actually going on here right look at this he also says in verse he says calm and you will see so they came and saw where he was staying Jesus gave them exactly what they asked for but even though we gave them what they ask for a stool and follow him ok one of the requirements of the disciple is to follow Jesus to follow Jesus Lou if anyone would come after me he must deny himself take up his cross daily and follow me great now there's three kinds of commands there if anyone is going to come after me he must deny himself what does it mean to deny yourself does it mean that you just like well I don't really exist anymore I don't think it means that I think what it means when Jesus saying you must deny yourself he's talking about like your greed and your and your stuff and like well I want to accomplish this with my life and I want to get this thing done in the Bible says seek first the kingdom of heaven and all of these things will be added unto you and so often you and I it's like we don't want to deny ourselves a whole culture is going the opposite direction isn't it the whole culture is saying well do best for you your want that you deserve this you Jesus does know if you want to follow after me you you needed to deny yourself the second one is to take up your cross now we put crosses on walls and churches on on steeples and we wear crosses jewelry in the first century across was a torture device it was an instrument of the app it was like an electric chair right Jesus is saying you got it you gotta die d yourself this instrument of torture you gotta pick it up you got to be willing to lay down your life deny yourself take up your cross daily and follow me follow where Jesus goes now to get the disciples get that when they started following what we're looking at the beginning of the following of the disciples maybe they didn't totally understand that they understood what it meant to follow rabbi but you know that of the twelve disciples we we lost Judas to suicide because he didn't realize that Jesus could forgive his sins we have left of them died a martyr's death Peter was hung upside down on a cross taking they're putting him on a cross and he said don't I'm not worthy to be crucified the way that my lord was crucified and they hung him upside down and he was suspended upside down for the dog tradition tells us five days before he died the only one that did wasn't murdered for his fate was John they tried pretty hard they started a boiling pot of oil they say they were boiling this pot of oil and they threw him in and he did not say what we can't kill him so will banish him to the island of Patmos and he was on this deserted island all by himself with where criminals live they put the criminals out there they paid a heavy price to follow Jesus are you paying

the price get my playing price if we want the abundant life that God says that we can have it only comes when we follow Jesus it only comes when you follow Jesus okay look at verse first you got Andrew here and he goes and he tells his brother Simon Peter and actually were verse is where we're going to see that ok and and there's just this little love being here you know I don't need to know all the answers but I know someone who has the answers right look at versa with me the next day he purposed to go into Galilee any found philip and Jesus said follow me now Philip was from Bethsaida of the city of Andrew and Peter ok so next day Jesus fine still up look at verse with me Philip found Nathanael and he said to him we have found him who Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote Jesus of Nazareth the son of Joseph ok so Phillip is following Jesus and Phillip goes and he finds Nathaniel and he says to Nathaniel hey we found the Messiah we found him come on and follow it now just a second hold on we talked about disciples and we talked about disciples following round eyes when disciples follow rabbis who chooses the rabbi chooses the rabbi goes and he says he you want to be my disciple follow me who's choosing here Philip find some daniel says something you need to follow Jesus who gets to decide who's deciding here Nathaniel you know that the greatest rabbi who has ever lived the greatest teacher who's ever lived the god of the universe gives the call to all people follow me follow me that invitation is for everybody but how does Nathaniel start following Nathaniel starts falling because Philip found something Philip found the one in whom there was life and light and he's threads that he says look you know your life might not be going really great right now but i can help you find someone it might not change the outcome of your life it might not change the circumstances of your life and mine but he can give you life and life and joy in the midst of your problems I called Alan on the phone I talked to him yesterday I talked to him today this man's been in a car accident he's been through surgeries to try to pieces leg back together he's got a broken job i said how you doin Alan announces to me I'm blessed blessed by the Lord if you've ever met Alan if you've ever spent time with Alan you know that he's like just mr optimism he's this bundle of energy enjoy and it's fun to be around and it's exciting and that comes from his relationship with Jesus and the reason I know that is because he told me that he found Jesus when he was going through chemotherapy on cancer and he gets credit for the survival of that cancer to Jesus whenever someone goes through really big things I get a little nervous for them because when we go through really big trials when we go through things that are really difficult there's there's kind of two choices that we have one of those choices is to follow Jesus the other choices to kind of find a cop-out you know and so people they go that they they lose somebody and and there's a there's this tragedy and there's this difficult time and so they may find something to numb the pain and they go to drugs and go to alcohol and go to pornography and they go to all these different things and then they you know it like helps because it eases the pain and it helps them not to feel that and you know what happens first man takes to drink and then the drink takes the man and then the one tragedy is turned into two tragedies and then pretty soon they're beating their wife and there's all these negative things going on and so when a trial comes I always get a little nervous for people seem like an this can totally suck them away from Jesus it can pull them away from Jesus I'm not worried about that for Alan because Alice been down a difficult Road and every time a trial comes in it doesn't push him away from these it drives him to Jesus and when we encounter various trials and when we come across things that are difficult we need to dig in its time to dig in it's time to go to the source of him who gives life and light and gives courage who's already over comment and I know there's a lot of people here today I have gone through difficult things already this year and last year and the year before but go to the one who has life in light he doesn't promise an easy road for you and I but he does promise to be with us down that route look at the response of nathaniel not really Pleasant not really positive verse and daniel said to him can anything good come out of Nazareth Wow what I mean hey Philip Sousa Daniel Daniel Payne was found outside its Jesus of Nazareth you should come and see him come check him out anything good come out of Nazareth did I mean doesn't that have you ever had a witnessing experience like

that you go to someone you're like oh i found i find this I I found I found joy found happiness is found in like whatever nails rep we we were up we were in we're worried [Music] kealakekua we're in kealakekua my wife and I and we were there was some people there and they said where are you from we say our promotion view and they said oh I couldn't tell your car is running right and I didn't know if that was supposed to be funny or if I was you know supposed to be offended just like can anything good come out of Nazareth I mean you see the isn't that kind of how people view ocean view can anything good come out of ocean view mean that might not be the modern language but right now you know what I see when I look out upon this congregation so I see the good in ocean I see that God has begun a good work in you and that he is going to be faithful to complete that good work and that is what our church wants to be isn't it we want to be the good that comes out of ocean view we want people we want oceanview to be known as a place that people show up to see Jesus now that might not be what we see right now but God can do that and that's what God wants to do in this church and it's not a building the churches in this building the church isn't us gathered it's you and me the church is the people of God and when we follow God and when we go through difficulties and we go through trials and people see that there's something different about you and there's something different about me because we have a connection with Jesus Christ a mentor of mine recently got out of the hospital and there is a we saw a news article on him and his name is Jimmy Stewart he's not the jimmy stewart of the movies he's the jimmy stewart of Alaska of he's my friend and he was installing a heater system in his cabin and while he was installing it a spark ignited the gas that was flooding into the cabin and he got burned melted his he hasn't he doesn't have years burn all over they thought he was going to die they did they'd it's a miracle that he survived and they flew him down to Seattle and he spent time and at the end of his six months of recovery of him getting skin grafted on and having to stretch that skin out he has been such a light for Jesus in that place that the news people show up and they do a story on this miraculous healing this man who has such fake and who has such courage and has the ability to breathe life on people who are injured for professionals that's what I want to be known for that in spite of the circumstance that he walks me through it and that people don't see Tim bruna but they see Jesus Christ look at first Jesus saw Nathanael coming and he said to him behold in Israelite indeed and whom there is no deceit Nathaniel said to him how do you know me and Jesus answered and said to him before Philip called you you were under the fig tree okay now this is a little bit different is a little strange anything good come out of Nazareth that's Nazareth's or that's up that's Nathaniel's response to Jesus but once the Daniel gets to know Jesus he has a new opinion about Nazareth is a new opinion about Jesus ok so up to give up on Nathaniel even though Nathaniel's first response was negative he kept on keeping on kept on praying and kept on talking about Jesus and kept on doing what Jesus had called him to do right now the response here is interesting Jesus saw Nathanael coming go hold an Israelite indeed whom there is no to see then the response that Nathaniel gives how do you know me and Jesus answered and said before Philip called you I thought you were under the fig tree I saw you okay what does that mean what does that mean we saw him under a big tree I don't know about the whole day I don't know if this was like a prophetic vision or if you just saw him under the fig tree and attention was trying to hide under the i don't i don't know all the details here but look at the response in verse Nathaniel answered him and said rabbi you are the son of God you are the king of Israel also becomes obvious Nathaniel through this phrase I saw you under the victory that this is Jesus that this is Messiah that this is God you don't know what it is that you're going to do that is going to win people you and I we have no idea we you know the great thing about Jesus he says exactly what needs to be set right Jesus can control what comes out of your mouth and Jesus can speak to people without you even speaking but you and I need to be like in life in people's lives right we need to be like Phillip we just don't give long people look at verse verse rabbi you are the son of God you are the king of Israel Jesus answered and said because i say to you that you will see greater things than these now that's the amazing part about Jesus is that the greater things are

still coming that we may have seen great things in our life with the greatest things are still coming now the greatest things are coming in heaven but even before heaven God can do some amazing things right look at verse he said to him truly truly I say to you you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the son of man now angels ascending and descending that takes us back to Genesis verse remember Jacob's ladder Jacob is having this vision and the angels are going up and down this ladder coming to Earth and going to heaven and where are they coming where the angels coming to and from there coming to and from there descending upon the Son of man who's the son of man son of man is Jesus together that that little phrase Son of man has some pretty significant stuff to it Daniel it's going to take us to and it's going to talk about the son of man we're going to talk about that this week if you want to know more about the Son of Man phrase you're going to have to come back later and later you'll get to hear the cinematics like my little teaser so you come back right ok but with that said Jesus is the contact point between heaven and earth the focus of the traffic that brings heavens blessing to mankind when the angels the traffic going from heaven to earth it comes through Jesus it comes through Jesus hey look the most important thing I said today is Jesus that Jesus came to earth that Jesus lived a perfect life that Jesus was not just a person but that he was God in flesh he was God in a man suit hundred percent man a hundred percent got he lived a perfect life he never sent he never said thought or did anything that was contrary to the nature of God he was completely righteous and completely right in the centres of this world you and I and our forefathers took the perfect son of man the perfect son of god we beat him we tortured him we ripped out his beer we pounded a crown of thorns upon his head we mocked him we stripped him naked and we hung him on the most evil torture device that mankind has ever come up with and the blood of God cell from that body onto the dirt of the ground and he hung there not because of anything he had done wrong but because of what I had done wrong be because of what you have done wrong and three days later heroes that should be a cause for celebration because when Jesus came back to life he proved that he had dominion over Satan over evil over death and over the grave and so when God's people here that Jesus rose it is a cause for celebration because if Jesus rose from the dead he has victory over death if Jesus rose from the dead he has victory over your troubles if Jesus rose from the dead he has victory over your tribulations if Jesus rose from the dead there is no problem there is no sin too big there is nothing that he does not have dominion over and if you're experiencing something like that it's not to crush you it's not to bruise you it's not to hurt you it's not two main you it's to grow you every problem is an opportunity for us to get closer to Jesus so let's celebrate as a church that Jesus did not stay dead heroes amen amen users did not stay dead he rose let's try one more time i want to i want you guys to be a little bit excited about this that Jesus is at the right hand of the Father and that he is in the business of praying for you of helping you of glowing you of loving you of getting you through the difficulties that you go through Jesus did not stay dead he rose alright our position as believers in Jesus Christ is with Jesus in heaven at the right hand of God and so we need to rise up it's time to rise it's time to put our mind on things above to put our mind where Jesus is where he lives we are above the circumstances on this planet we are above the things that are weighing us down because not that we have anything to offer but because we have a savior who loves us and gave himself for us you know we're like a blip on the pages of history we get eighty ninety a hundred years and then we're done that's nothing compared to eternity why would I live for myself why would I live for something greater will you bow your head and close your eyes with me Jesus offers life and life eternal but he never forces his will upon anybody he gives us the opportunity to respond to him and we do that by saying god I know that I'm a sinner I believe that you died on the cross for my sins and that you rose three days later and I call on you to be the Lord of my life and when we do that we become a follower of Jesus we become his disciple we become his child we become his beloved if you haven't done that today is the day of salvation or maybe you're going through something that's difficult something that you think is too big to bear it may be too big for you but it's

not too big for him will you give it to him today father we do thank you for today we thank you that you have given us victory that we can say no death where is your sting that there is no circumstance represented in this room or outside of this room that is beyond your Redemption there's nothing there's no problem so great that you don't have it completely taken care of and in hand and Lord we ask that you will help us to have your respective on this world and on our circumstances that we will rise up above the issues and the problems and the concerns of our life that we will rise up and that we will recognize our place in heaven with Jesus at the right hand of the Father we do thank you for all that you're doing in our life and we pray all of these things in Jesus name Amen