

LESSON 3

RESPONSES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

JOHN 1:35—2:25



1 If Jesus were calling twelve disciples today, where would he go? What types of people would he choose?



Read John 1:35—2:25 and the following notes:

☐ 1:35ff ☐ 1:37 ☐ 1:46 ☐ 2:5 ☐ 2:14 ☐ 2:14–16 ☐ 2:15, 16 ☐ 2:23–25

2 How did the disciples respond to Jesus? Why did they follow him?

3 Why did Mary respond to Jesus the way she did?

4 How did the Temple leaders respond to Jesus?

5 How does Jesus call disciples today? Why did you decide to follow him?



6 How did John the Baptist respond to Jesus?

7 Give at least one modern example of each kind of response to Jesus.

<i>Response</i>	<i>Biblical example</i>	<i>Modern example</i>
Submission	Mary	
Obedience	disciples	
Defiance	Temple leaders	
Superficiality	people at Passover	

The way we respond to Jesus is critical because it can make the difference between life and death—eternally. It can affect our sense of joy and fulfillment as believers. When Andrew, John, Philip, and Nathanael responded, they became disciples—close, intimate companions of Jesus during his three years of public ministry. Belief is not the only criterion of faithfulness to God, but it is the first correct response. What you believe about Christ is fundamental. The Jewish leaders blindly practiced traditional religious rituals and at the same time conducted lucrative business in the Temple. Their defensive rather than repentant response to Jesus revealed the true nature of their heart and faith.

8 What in your life could show disrespect for God?

9 What in your life shows respect for God?



10 What makes it difficult to follow Jesus?

11 If you sensed God wanted you to give up your lifelong career and serve him in another way, what questions or reservations would you have?



12 What response do you need to make in obedience to God this week? What do you know you should do that you have been putting off?

A Why did John the Baptist's disciples follow Jesus? Why did John the Baptist give up these followers?

B How did Peter come to Christ? Who introduced you to Christ? Who have you introduced to him?

C What does the wedding incident tell us about Jesus? Why did this miracle convince the disciples that Jesus was the Messiah? What would it take to convince you?

D Why did Jesus clear out the Temple? Who or what would he clear out of your church?

E What do Jesus' actions teach us about anger? What makes you angry?

F Why didn't Jesus trust the people at the Passover feast (2:23, 24)?

G What evidence for Jesus' deity does John appeal to in these verses?

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