



One of the first things the Holy Spirit opened my understanding to was that most every word Jesus spoke while He was on earth was an invitation of some sort. For those of us who feel like we have a good grasp on what Jesus says in the gospels, let me challenge you to read slower and in different translations. (I'm talking to myself here too!). Too often I fear that we/I read too quickly because we think we know the story. However, rushing through "known" stories doesn't allow time or space for the Holy Spirit to move and speak.

An invitation meaning - "the act of inviting; a request to be present or participate; written, printed or spoken". The first invitation Jesus extends in John comes in the form of a question, check out [John 1:38](#) "When Jesus turned and noticed them (Disciples of John the Baptist) following him, he asked them, *"What are you looking for?"* A spoken word, an invitation to participate in a conversation. A simple question, The Message translates it as *"what are you after?"*. Which really gets to the heart of the invitation! Jesus notices these guys following and He knows what they want because He is God, but still He invites into a deeper conversation with a simple question.

The men respond by asking another question *"where are you staying?"*. What these men really wanted to know was whether this guy was really the Messiah. So Jesus invites again, this time a bit deeper: *"Come and see for yourself"*. This simple invitation led to Jesus calling His first disciples since Andrew (Peter's brother) was of the two men referenced here. We all know the invitations that come next *"come, follow me"*.

Before we look at a few other invitations it's important to understand that with an invitation comes an opportunity to respond. Every person Jesus spoke to, **responded**. They stopped, perhaps looked up and replied to His question either by word or action. The same is true for us today- when Jesus invites, **we have to choose to respond or ignore**. I could have chosen to continue to ignore the prompting to read the words of Jesus. If I had, there is a chance I'd be even more distant and frustrated.

Instead of going deep right now on these other invitations of Jesus, I'm going to invite you to go read them for yourself. Read them with the idea of each word or phrase of Jesus being an invitation.

- John 2:7-8 - "Fill these jars with water".
- John 4:1-38- "Give me a drink. Go call your husband, Open your eyes and look at the fields"
- John 4:46-54- "Go and your son will live"
- John 5:1-6- "Do you want to get well?, Get up, take up your mat and walk"

These are just a few passages God used to capture my mind and heart! I know there are more, so please take some time and read these verses for yourself and see what He reveals. In a couple of days I will circle back around with more details of how Jesus used these words to impact my understanding and life.