

**The Character of Jesus 3**  
**Calling His First Disciples**  
**John 1:35 – 51**

- Characteristic: Flexibility
  - (35 – 39) After a clear announcement by John the Baptist, Andrew and probably John are hesitant to declare their intentions. Jesus took initiative to start a conversation (38) and went along with their evasive answer (39).
  - (42) With Peter, Jesus was a bit cryptic but obviously forceful.
  - (47 – 51) With Nathanael (most often identified as Bartholomew), Jesus started with a personal miracle.
- Applications
  - In general, are churches (or their representatives) flexible in their approach?
    - The people in this scene were to become apostles, yet Jesus started with each of them very differently.
    - How do we know what approach to take?
    - Jesus did not invite any of them to synagogue services on Saturday.
  - Approach 1: What do you seek?
    - Open-ended question with a multitude of answers, shallow to deep.
    - “What are you looking for?”
    - Follow up a shallow answer with “Come and see.” This was not an invitation to visit His living quarters, probably a rented room.
    - The resulting conversation went on for a few hours, probably not all theological.
  - Approach 2: Make a non-miraculous prediction.
    - Nicknames were important in that culture. This was like making the assertion that Simon had a solid character and would do great things in the kingdom of God, even though Simon had no clue about his future.
    - Tell people how you see them fitting into the kingdom.
  - Approach 3: Do something miraculous.
    - Obviously, we do not have the same abilities as Jesus.
    - Can we do impossible stuff?
    - How can we challenge people with the miraculous?