

## ANDREW, THE QUIET ONE

John 1:35-42; 6:8-9; 12:20-225

One day as Jesus walked the shore of the Sea of Galilee, He called two fishermen, Peter and Andrew, to “Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19).

At once they left their nets and followed Him. Haven’t you ever wondered, “There must be more to the story?” There is—they had already met Jesus and knew what He was about.

John 1:35-42(NIV) 35The next day John (John the Baptist) was there again with two of his disciples. 36When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” 37When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39“Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. 40Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). 42And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

Because of his bold preaching, many thought John the Baptist might be the promised Messiah, or, if not, then the Prophet Elijah, or a prophet like Moses.

He refused all of those titles and simply called himself the voice of one crying in the wilderness. He was totally unaffected by his success or the numbers of people following him.

One thing John was sure of: he was preparing the people for the Messiah. Andrew and another man were disciples or followers of John. Who is Andrew?

Andrew is usually identified in the Bible as Simon Peter’s brother. It’s as if the writer supposes no one would recognize his name alone.

Andrew was the quiet one . . . the one who worked in the shadows of his better known brother and other disciples. Throughout his life he was known as Simon Peter's brother.

People might not know who Andrew was, but every one knew Peter. It's like going through life known as the preacher's wife, or the banker's wife, or the professor's wife . . . with little recognition of your own.

Andrew wasn't part of the inner circle. When Jesus healed Jairus' daughter, Andrew wasn't invited into the house, as were Peter, James and John.

He wasn't invited up on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus—but Peter, his brother was.

It would have been so easy for Andrew to resent all this. Wasn't he one of the first two to follow Jesus? In fact, if not for Andrew, Peter may not have ever met Jesus.

It seems that he could have reasonably expected to be one of the leaders. But that didn't happen. I think it takes a lot of grace to month after month, year after year, to accept a subordinate position...

...To stand in the shadows while others get the praise, the headlines, the plaudits, or the reward. But this was the life of Andrew, and there is no record that he ever complained.

He stood in the shadows and loyally and faithfully served his Lord, Jesus Christ. It is the Andrews who are the backbone of every church.

It is the quiet ones who love Jesus and care about people and pray who are the strength of the church. Let me tell you a little about Andrew...

## 1. Andrew discovered Christ.

Andrew and another person (perhaps John the Beloved, the author of the Gospel of John) were followers of John the Baptist when he pointed them to Jesus Christ.

As they turned to Jesus, He asked, "What do you want?" This is one of the most fundamental questions of life. "What are you looking for? What are you seeking? What do you want?" It's really the question of our lives, isn't it?

We are all seeking something. It might be security in a job, security for the future in retirement, security in relationships.

You may be looking for the three “Ps”, power, prominence, and prestige. Or maybe you want the fourth “P”, peace. Peace is the search for God.

Jesus asked, “What do you want?” That’s what it all boils down to, isn’t it? Sooner or later when we begin to take Jesus seriously we face the same question: what do we really want with Him or from Him?

Do you notice what I did? Jesus didn’t press for an immediate response. Instead He gives them the opportunity to spend time with Him before making a commitment.

This is a great lesson for those over-zealous Christians who insist on immediate response from those they share Christ with.

Andrew was pointed to Christ by John the Baptist. Andrew wanted to know more about this Lamb of God. But it was Christ who issued the invitation.

It is always God who takes the first step. God’s invitation is open. God doesn’t leave us on our own. Jesus said, “Come.” Wouldn’t you like to know what was said that night?

When Andrew and his friend left Jesus’ house that night, his great adventure with Jesus had begun. He was wholeheartedly dedicated to Christ for life, for death, for eternity.

## 2. Andrew was the first home missionary.

After discovering the Messiah for himself the first thing that Andrew did was find his brother, Simon, and share the exciting news (v.41b, “We have found the Messiah.”). He then brought Simon to Jesus (v.42).

Andrew was the first home missionary of Christianity. He was the first one we have record of who, after he had found Christ for his own life, went home and introduced his brother to Jesus.

Andrew realized that his primary responsibility was to his own family. At that moment he wasn’t thinking about the unsaved in some foreign land, he wasn’t thinking about the slums in the city.

His first thought was, “I must introduce my brother to Jesus.” I like his approach. “We have found the Messiah.” Having found the friendship of Jesus, he now introduces his brother to his friend.

### 3. Andrew respected children.

John 6:8-9(NIV) 8Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

You remember the story. We call it the feeding of the 5000, though there were probably many more people than that. At the end of the day Jesus asks the disciples what they would do to feed the crowd.

They didn't have an answer, but Andrew brought a child with a lunch to Jesus. You see, Andrew was telling people in the crowd about Jesus and got acquainted with this boy. He knew him well enough to know what his lunch was.

Then he introduced him to Jesus. No preacher, no teacher, no parent, no church ever does a greater thing than to introduce boys and girls to Jesus Christ.

Parents listen to me. I know that you have ambitions for your children. Your greatest ambition should be to introduce them to Jesus. That's the most important.

But hear this also. You cannot lead your son or daughter any closer to God than you yourself are.

Church family, the time we make and give in Sunday School to teach the children about Jesus is some of the most important work we do here.

### 4. Andrew was the first foreign missionary.

John 12:20-22(NIV) 20Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. 21They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." 22Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Some non-Jews (Gentiles) came to Philip with a simple request, "We would like to see Jesus." Philip was at a loss. He didn't know what to do. Gentiles were not their kind of people.

In his indecision look who he turned to. Andrew may not have been part of the inner circle. He may have always been introduced as Peter's brother.

But Philip knew that Andrew would know what to do. Andrew brought people to Jesus. Andrew had a vision that was world-wide in scope. Andrew overlooked artificial boundaries of nationality, race, and class distinctions.

Andrew had a heart that loved every person and embraced a world that was looking for a Savior. He gladly introduced those Greeks to the Savior.

In the very next verse Jesus said, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (v. 23). This is what Jesus had been waiting for—understanding that He was for all. And in v.32, “But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.”

This quiet man, Andrew, who worked in the shadow of others, knew the importance of introducing others to Jesus.

[Many years ago -- Italian recluse -- frugal living -- found dead -- friends sorting possessions -- found 246 expensive violins in attic -- even more valuable ones found in a bureau in the bedroom -- all his money spent on violins]

His misdirected devotion to the violin had robbed the world of their beautiful sounds. Because of his selfish treasuring of those violins, the world never heard the music they were meant to play.

Many Christians treat their faith like that man treated his violin. They hide their light. They squirrel away their great treasure. By not sharing their light and treasure, many are left in spiritual darkness and poverty.

## Application:

You can be an Andrew. You don't need to worry about what other Christians are doing or not doing. Just make yourself available and let the light of Jesus shine through your life.