

Andrew Brought People to Jesus

Introduction. So many of us have people in the Bible with which we identify. To us, they're great heroes of faith. And that brings up a good question, "How did this person in the Bible become great?"

Today we'll investigate the character behind the character. The apostle Andrew is a great person to study because he did so well embodying the spirit of Jesus in Matthew 9:35-38.

I. Andrew in the New Testament

- A. We don't have a lot of information about Andrew because he's mentioned only 12 times, but it's very clear about who he was as a person.
- B. He was a disciple of John the Baptist, and one of the first to follow Jesus (John 1:35-39). He was actually following Jesus before Jesus said anything to him. He was truth-seeking with both John and Jesus.
- C. He was a fisherman from Bethsaida (John 1:44, "house of fishing"), and he was called (formally into full-time work) to be an apostle by Jesus while fishing (Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 1:16-18).
- D. He takes a "back seat" to Peter in the gospel accounts. By today's standards Andrew would be "average" or "ordinary."
 - 1. He isn't outspoken or well-known like Peter.
 - a) He's called Simon Peter's "brother" (Matthew 4:18; 10:2; Mark 1:16; Luke 6:14; John 6:8).
 - b) He wasn't a member of the "inner circle" (Peter, James, and John), although he did get chances to privately ask Jesus questions (Mark 13:3).
 - 2. Yet, Peter's greatness comes because of Andrew.
 - a) Andrew's "back seat" role was just as important as the rest (1 Corinthians 13:4, "love does not envy").
 - b) Andrew could've grown resentful and bitter but he didn't. His interest was in glorifying Christ, not himself.
- E. Before the day of Pentecost, he's mentioned for the final time in the list of apostles in the upper room (Acts 1:13).
 - 1. Tradition says Andrew had converted many to the gospel throughout the Mediterranean, including the wife of a Roman provincial governor in southern Greece.
 - 2. The governor, however, immediately ordered Andrew to be scourged and then crucified.
- F. Andrew was what we refer to as a "personal worker." In the gospel of John we're told a little about his life and character in three events. Those who are truly won to Christ will win others to Christ. Said another way, to convert others you must be truly converted yourself.

II. 3 Events in Andrew's Life

- A. Andrew and his brother (John 1:40-42).
 - 1. He found his brother first — seeking, driven character.

- a) Start by bringing family members to Jesus — those close to you (cp. Romans 10:14-15; Galatians 1:15-16).
 - b) Andrew's love for the lost was so great that it moved him to bring his brother to Jesus. He was unselfish and wanted Peter to have what he had with Jesus.
- 2. He said something to his brother — burning, zealous, truly-converted character (Psalm 107:1-2; Jeremiah 20:7-9).
- 3. He brought his brother — efficient, energetic character (Acts 10:33).
- B. Andrew and a child (John 6:8-9).
 - 1. Andrew thought about a lad who had a small lunch. Could Jesus do something with this?
 - a) This was such a momentous miracle that all four gospels record it.
 - b) It was also momentous enough to cause the people to want to make Jesus a king (v. 15).
 - c) Jesus had to rebuke the people because they wanted more food the next day. He told them about Him being the bread of life.
 - 2. Andrew looked for solutions to the problem. He realized the lad's lunch was insufficient, but it was a start. Andrew was optimistic about it.
- C. Andrew and the Greeks (John 12:20-22).
 - 1. After the triumphal entry, the Greeks would've heard reports of Jesus raising Lazarus, and therefore, like many of the Jews, they wanted to meet Jesus
 - 2. The Greeks went to Philip, but Philip consulted with Andrew. Philip knew to go to Andrew and Andrew knew what to do ... go to Jesus!
 - a) Curiously enough, John never writes whether Jesus either gave these Greeks an audience or sent a reply back to them.
 - b) Nevertheless, Jesus' action itself is an answer to their inquiry, because He announced openly that the great hour of His life had arrived.
 - (1) He knew that the time had come to open the way to God for the Gentiles and to fuse Jewish and Gentile believers into one body.
 - (2) To accomplish this objective, He had to sacrifice Himself (cp. 10:16).
 - 3. Andrew was both a "home missionary" and "foreign missionary" at the same time. He was unprejudiced and wanted Jesus to know about the Greeks.

III. 3 Lessons From Andrew

- A. Unselfish people bring others to Jesus. Don't become selfish with your time.
- B. Optimistic people bring others to Jesus. Not all will come or obey, but some will! Don't lose your optimism.
- C. Unprejudiced people bring others to Jesus. Don't let racial, social, or other prejudices hinder you.

Conclusion. A religion not worth sharing is a religion not worth keeping. To bring people to Jesus, you have to be unselfish, optimistic, and unprejudiced.

Andrew busied himself bringing others to Jesus. Our job is to bring others to Jesus. There are often more converts made outside the church building than inside. There are more converts made by a personal study than by a public sermon.

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