

ANDREW

Servant-Leader

“Of all the disciples, Andrew was probably the most spiritually minded when he first met Christ.”
Andrew’s spiritual desire for God drew him to leave life and search for truth – twice! Once to be a disciple of John the Baptist, the fiery, wilderness prophet, and then to become a follower of Jesus!

“One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.” John 1:40-41

I. Background of Andrew

- A. Born in Bethsaida – north shore of the Sea of Galilee - John 1:44
- B. Lived in Capernaum at the time of Christ Shared a home with Peter and his family.
- C. “Andrew” means – “manly” – he was a devout and faithful man
- D. Left fishing and had followed John the Baptist Andrew had an eagerness to search for spiritual truth and was willing to sacrifice for it!
- E. Left fishing and followed Jesus Jeremiah 29:13 “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”
- F. The book of John gives the most details about Andrew Why? They were probably close – both followed John the Baptist; worked in the fishing business together; from the same town; outside of Apostle lists, Andrew is mentioned 9 times, most of them just in passing
- G. Always named in the top four when disciples are listed

“Again the next day after John (John the Baptist) stood, and two of his disciples; ³⁶And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! ³⁷And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? ³⁹ He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.” John 1:35-40

II. First Encounters with Jesus

- A. Andrew heard John the Baptist announce, “Behold the Lamb of God!” Let’s look at this passage and see all of John’s words when questioned about his message. John 1:19-34. John made it very plain Jesus was the object of his ministry and message! No wonder Andrew and John followed Jesus that day, John’s message was so clear!
- B. Followed Jesus to His dwelling place and spent the day with Christ

1. Convinced Jesus was the Messiah What an important day in the life of Andrew! It must have been an amazing conversation for we know at the end of it, Andrew knew Jesus was the Messiah!
 2. Decided to follow Christ Don't overlook this point. Andrew was already a follower of John the Baptist. But no feelings of loyalty or peer pressure from the other John followers would deter him from following the one John had declared as the "Lamb of God!"
- C. Found his brother Peter and told him he had found the Messiah After that day with Jesus, the first thing Andrew did was to find Peter and tell him he had found the Messiah! He was convinced and excited!

“And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. ¹⁹And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. ²⁰And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.” Matthew 4:18-20

III. Ministry as a Disciple

- A. Andrew's Call - he left all and followed Christ This is the third time Andrew left all and followed a “prophet” of God. First, he followed John the Baptist, then he left John to follow Jesus, and now with this direct call, he left all to follow Christ for good! But this time Peter, Andrew's brother, was convinced and ready to follow with Andrew too.
- B. Associated with Phillip
1. Both from the same town - Bethsaida John 1:44
 2. Phillip and Andrew seemed assigned to administrative duties and public relations
Twice we see them working with people and helping Jesus with crowds. John 6; 12

“One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, ⁹There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?” John 6:8-9

- C. Feeding of the 5000 – Here is a quote from the Ladies Studying Jesus lesson concerning Andrew at the Feeding of the 5000, “On a positive note, Andrew seems to have been out and about among the overwhelming crowd and connecting with individuals and found this little boy. What a wonderful example to us! But realize, though Andrew was doing great interacting, his faith was small! Andrew brought the 5 loaves and 2 small fishes to Jesus, but he asked the question everyone else was thinking, “what are they among so many?” To Andrew as well as the rest of the disciples THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION was----NOTHING, they're MEANINGLESS and completely USELESS! But to Christ, the Creator of the world, it was perfect for an all-you-can-eat feast for over 5000 men with leftovers!” Andrew understood the power of insignificant gifts. And he set the stage for an amazing miracle. We too must remember, anything we are willing to place within the Master's hands has the capability of being used greatly by God! He sees all willing gifts as great! Jesus taught this in Luke 21:1-4.

“And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: ²¹ The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. ²² Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.” John 12:20-22

- D. Greeks that came to see Jesus – Here we see Andrew and Philip working together with crowds and needs. This would have been an uncomfortable and uncertain situation for both of these Jewish men. The word “Greeks” would indicate Gentile, and for them to even consider asking Jesus for an audience means they had an idea Jesus would see these men. Keep in mind, Religious Leaders of the day would have little to do with Gentiles. They were learning about the mind of Christ!

I want to take a moment and remind us of the place Andrew had as the brother of Peter. He certainly lived within his shadow and was always known as Simeon Peter’s brother. But in reality, Andrew also was very influential to many people within the Gospel record. Andrew was mature enough to understand the value of a single soul. He was known for bringing individuals to Jesus not crowds. We often see him bringing someone to Jesus. Peter; lad at the feeding of the 5000; and then the Greeks that sought to see Jesus in John 6. Keep in mind, one on one evangelism and discipleship is the most effective and Andrew seemed to grasp this early.

“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?” Mark 13:3-4

- E. Olivet Discourse – joined the three inter-circle disciples Here we see Andrew being part of the disciple group that asked Jesus to explain the future to them after Christ’s comments about the temple’s destruction, a statement Jesus had just made. I think this is probably a good indication of the normalcy of the disciples. They did not act or travel in groups of three or four! They were **all** followers, called out apostles of Jesus, and interacted with Him and each other equally. Jesus worked and taught them all. It would be natural for Andrew to be near and interact closely with Peter, his brother, and James and John. Remember, all lists mention Andrew within the first four disciples. Mark 1:29 (another time Andrew acted with the inner circle)
- F. Early Church tradition – traveled north to the Black Sea – Martyred by crucifixion

Keep in mind these wonderful facts about Andrew:

1. First to hear Jesus was the Lamb of God.
2. First to follow Christ
3. Part of a close group of disciples
4. Part of those that spread the Gospel to the world
5. Part of those who will rule over the twelve tribes of Israel in the New Jerusalem

John MacArthur had this to say about Andrew, “His eagerness to follow Christ, combined with his zeal for introducing others to Him, fairly typifies Andrew’s character....Whenever he speaks---which is rare in Scripture---he always says the right thing, not the wrong thing...Scripture never attaches any dishonor to Andrew’s actions when it mentions him by name.” p. 61-64

IV. Lessons from Andrew

- A. Andrew had a heart ready to hear about Jesus, recognize Jesus, follow Jesus, and tell others about Jesus! How about us? This is a wonderful progression of spiritual growth. This is the same journey we all should travel in our spiritual journey. We come to Christ with a heart ready to hear about Christ and then realize His love and ability to save us from our sin. An acceptance of this truth is **salvation!** Our first desire, regardless of age, is to follow Jesus and as we do, we naturally want to give the message of the Gospel to those we love! And this is the story of Andrew! Have you been on this path? Ready to hear; recognize and accept the truth of Jesus; Follow Him faithfully; and tell others! If you are not sure you have come to recognize Jesus as your Savior, make that commitment today! 2 Cor. 5:14-21 – Paul builds a wonderful argument explaining how Jesus died, we accept His work for us, and now we have this work of “reconciliation” and ambassadorship toward others!
- B. Christ needs true servant-leaders, like Andrew, who will build His church. Andrew learned the lesson of Servant-leadership.

John the Baptist taught this to Andrew - John 3:30 John 3:26-31

Jesus had to teach the same lesson to the disciples - Matt. 20:25-28 many want to exercise authority (lord over) but few want to serve; the word servant means slave – Jesus demonstrated this by washing their feet, preparing them food, answering and teaching

Paul teaches this same principle – Phil 2:5-8 Every Christian should be a servant! MacArthur says in his book Twelve Ordinary Men, “Almost everything Scripture tells us about Andrew shows that he had the right heart for effective ministry in the background....He was evidently pleased to do what he could with the gifts and calling God had bestowed on him, and he allowed the others to do likewise.” p. 63

Let’s take a brief look at servant leadership. There is a glaring difference between what is meant by servant leadership within the corporate world and that which Jesus taught His disciples - the objective of the leader!

In the business world, the bottom line of this style of leadership is to **move the business forward**. A manager or supervisor wants to elicit employee enthusiasm and support. These leaders are taught to consciously lead in such a way as to gain the trust and respect of the employee. They are trained to work alongside the employee, be sympathetic to personal needs, listen to suggestions, and make workers feel as if they have a say within the organization.

In Biblical servant leadership, the ultimate desire is to move the purposes of God forward; the spread of the Gospel, and the making of disciples. God wants His leaders to reflect the His character. Jesus taught His disciples to be leaders of humility, patience, self-sacrifice, to have an others-first mentality, and to love one another. (John 13:33-34) I liked this quote I found, “From a biblical perspective, servant leadership frees the church of the abuse of power and coercion and promotes mutual respect and love for one another.” Got Questions.org “What is servant leadership?”

Here are just a few points about Biblical servant leadership.

1. **A Biblical servant leader needs no special thanks or accolades.** They are working and serving to please their Savior, not for the praise of man or position. (Eph. 6:5-9) By the way, let’s be mature enough in our walk with Christ to be quick to recognize and thank

those who are quietly around us serving God and helping His ministry move forward smoothly and effectively!

2. **A Biblical servant leader is willing to do the lowest or most mundane task with an unselfish mindset.** This was the mind of Christ when coming to earth. He humbled Himself and became a man and then was abused by man, rejected by man, and was willing to be murdered by man for our good! (Phil.2)
3. **A Biblical servant leader will honor others before themselves.** This is based on the attitude of love, the driving characteristic of God!

Christ needs multiple millions of behind-the-scenes faithful, servant-leaders with a heart of commitment and dedication who will build His church! They need to understand God's plan of taking the Gospel message to the world and making disciples! These are the ones who plan, preach, implement discipleship, open their homes and their bank accounts, teach, and support any way they can, to facilitate the giving of Truth! They may stand before a class, rock babies in a nursery, play the piano, greet folks at the door, lead a Bible study, make cookies for Vacation Bible School, invite to an event...etc. Gene Getz reminds us, *"Some of the strongest and most effective leaders in Christian ministry are men who are not upfront but who are operating behind the scenes."* Let's end with another passage written by Paul. After explaining in verses 1-2 that we are to be "transformed" by the renewing of our mind so we can do God's perfect will, he goes on and gives wonderful aspects of the Christian life, many of which are directly associated with leadership, that allows us to fulfill the will of God in us! Enjoy a slow, thoughtful reading of this passage. Rom. 12:3-21