

## **Andrew Invited His Brother**

Many years ago there was a man named Andrew. He heard the teachings of a great preacher and wanted to study under him. Andrew's excitement was such that before he left he encouraged his brother to come with him. They went together and studied under the preacher for several years before going out and starting their own ministry. Andrew was by far the less known of the two and his brother preached great sermons (one led to more than 1000 baptisms) and opened the door for preaching to many who had never been able to hear the gospel. Andrew was a humble man who's greatest and best known act was simply to invite his brother Simon (better known as Peter) to hear the teachings of the great preacher Jesus.

Of all the twelve apostles Peter and Andrew are at opposite ends of the spectrum. Peter is mentioned by that name more than 150 times. Peter was the one bold enough to walk on water with Christ (Mt 14.29) and later to confess that Jesus was the Son of God when Jesus asked (Mt 16.16). Peter preached that first sermon on Pentecost leading to 3000 baptisms and the start of the church. Peter was selected to show that the Gentiles could obey the gospel. The contributions of Peter to the spread of the Gospel and the work of the church are immeasurable.

Andrew was mentioned a mere twelve times in the Bible. Only in the Gospel of John is he mentioned outside of either a list of the apostles, or occasions when Peter and Andrew happened to be together; of those scriptures two mention that he is Peter's brother. We can see Andrew's character in the two significant times he acts on his own. One is the account of the feeding of the five thousand in John 6. There, in the face of all those hungry people, Andrew was the one to bring the boy with the loaves and fishes to Christ (John 6.8-9). The other occasion is when Andrew was there with John the Baptist and John pointed out Jesus as the "Lamb of God" (John 1.36). Andrew went to Jesus and spent the evening listening to Him teach. Andrew then determined to follow Jesus but "He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah'" and brought him to meet Jesus (John 1.39-42).

Of the rest of the Apostles two wrote gospels, several wrote epistles and others made notable appearances in Acts and certainly all did great things to spread the Gospel. There are few among us who would compare themselves to any of these men and hope to live up to their example. Today we aren't looking at them. Instead we are challenged to look at the simple, quiet enthusiasm of Andrew who, apparently, was focused on two things: finding solutions when presented with a problem (John 6.8-9) and sharing his joy and enthusiasm with others (John 1.41).

Like Andrew each and every one of us should have a joy and excitement for following Jesus that cannot be contained. We should be compelled to share our joy in Him with those around us. We can't all be like Peter but each and every one of us can follow the simple example of his brother Andrew.

*-Michael Edwards*