

## ANDREW

You like to be a person in your own right, don't you?! You don't always want to be known as someone's wife or someone's husband ... You like people to get to know your name and start calling you by it. ... You are a person in your own right ... you are an individual.

It was something Andrew the disciple had to contend with ...

**Mt. 4:18** And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew *his brother*

**Mt. 10:2** Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew *his brother*

**Mk. 1:16** Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew *his brother*

**Lk. 6:14** Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew *his brother*

**Jn. 1:40** One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, *Simon Peter's brother.*

**Jn. 6:8** One of his disciples, Andrew, *Simon Peter's brother*

Now, it is interesting to note how he is mentioned in the Gospel of Mark. According to all the reliable sources, the Gospel of Mark was written by Mark but dictated to him by Peter, the brother of Andrew ☺. It is not surprising then that with the brotherly familiarity Peter introduces him in a different way ... for he doesn't need to keep repeating their family connection ... Yes, he is initially presented at the beginning of the Gospel, **Mk. 1:16** Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother ... but on each occasion thereafter, Peter introduces him ...

**Mk. 1:29** And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew

**Mk. 3:18** And Andrew

**Mk. 13:3** And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew

He was mostly known, though, as Peter's brother. It almost comes across as if he had no real identity belonging to himself ... His brother was such a major character among the disciples and in the early church ... Andrew was 'secondary' and very much a 'background person'. He wouldn't naturally have pushed himself to the front. He and Peter were like 'chalk and cheese' No matter how many people were in a crowd, you always would have known where Peter was ... but Andrew was the complete opposite for he kept 'in the shadows'.

He and his brother came from Bethsaida (Jn. 1:44, ‘house of fish’), - a town a short distance inland, to the north of the Sea of Galilee. Later on, they moved, - probably for business reasons, - to the coastal fishing town of Capernaum,. They lived together with their families (**Mk. 1:29** *And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew*), and worked together, - this indicates how close a relationship they had.

Prior to meeting Jesus, Andrew and his brother were devout Jews, **Jn. 1:40** *One of the two which heard John [the Baptist] speak, and followed him [Jesus], was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ... This occurred as a consequence of ...* **35** *Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;* **36** *And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!* **37** *And 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.*

So, initially Andrew was a follower, - disciple, - of John the Baptist ... which means he was a hard worker for John the Baptist’s lifestyle would have been anything but comfortable and serene! ... And Peter was also a disciple with Andrew listening to John the Baptist preaching and teaching concerning the Messiah. They had travelled all the way southwards from Galilee to become disciples of John. This seems to have been a kind of ‘sabbatical period’ when the brothers took ‘time out’ from their fishing career to further explore and embrace the spiritual hope of Israel. ...

During this time, - out in the wilderness, along the banks of the River Jordan, - ... out of all the twelve disciples who would be called, it was *Andrew* who first met the Lord Jesus. ... And isn’t it also interesting that, - in the will of God, - Andrew met the Saviour not in their home territory of Galilee but away out in the wilderness so far south. It is another reminder that when the Lord sets out to bring you into His family, He will go to any lengths to achieve His purpose.

John the Baptist taught about the Messianic expectation, and the fulfilment of the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants. Like John the Baptist, Andrew, - and his brother, - would have been awaiting the coming Messiah. This also indicates how Andrew was committed to the worship of Jehovah, and how the purpose of his whole life was established upon a firm and devout religious confidence. And that is a major reason for why, - when Andrew heard John the Baptist’s proclamation, *Behold the Lamb of God!* – he immediately went to tell

his brother Peter the good news. ... This also seems to imply Andrew was more regular in his service with John the Baptist than Peter.

After the initial meeting with Jesus, both Andrew and Peter returned to their fishing business in Capernaum, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The next time Andrew met Jesus was probably anything up to a year later, **Mt. 4:18** 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. **19** And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. **20** And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. ... Peter and Andrew were the first disciples to be called ... and along with James and John they formed the inner circle of the disciples, **21** And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. **22** And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him. ... Therefore, Andrew was a very significant member of the disciple band.

It is worth noting the parallel passage in Lk. 5. There, they had been fishing all night and caught nothing (v.5). Nevertheless, they went out into the sea again, cast the net overboard ... and when they pulled it in the net began to break and the boat began to sink (v. 6,7). ... **8** When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. **9** For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken ... And who was there? ... **10** And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. **11** And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him. ... The 'also' indicates there was more than James and John and Peter ... and *we* know there was more because Andrew was there also! ... Matthew mentions him, but Luke doesn't ... And there is another indication he was often 'in the shadows'.

You wouldn't find him 'up at the front', but nevertheless, you could depend upon him always being there. ... Peter, James and John to the fore ... and Andrew in the background. That is the kind of follower of Jesus he was. He wasn't inactive, for he was active ... but he kept himself out of the limelight.

And neither was there any resentment or rivalry between him and the more outspoken and extroverted Peter. Andrew did not begrudge him for being more dominant because it is obvious they worked together. ... And even when the brash, clumsy, hasty and impulsive Peter would be saying

something he would have been better keeping to himself, Andrew was a faithful brother in that he didn't even argue ... as perhaps James and John would have been more prone to do. ... There wasn't a contentious 'bone in Andrew's body'!

It is encouraging to see, though, his devout commitment. Prior to Jesus being betrayed, He was with the disciples outside the temple in Jerusalem. One of them happened to say, **Mk. 13:1** ... Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here! **2** And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. Obviously, that would have caused them to wonder what Jesus meant. However, instead of explaining it to *all* the disciples, we are specifically informed, **3** 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? ... This small little intimate group of four held the special attention of Jesus.

Another way of looking at Andrew is to see how he brought others to Christ, - that's a worthy quality for any believer, and in many cases it shows how Andrew saw the value of each individual soul ... In the first chapter of John he introduced his brother to Jesus, **Jn. 1:40** 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 Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. **42** And he brought him to Jesus.

Another time we see him bringing someone to the Saviour was when a potential problem was facing thousands of people who had gathered to see and listen to Jesus, **Jn. 6:5** When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? **6** And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. **7** Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread [*about two hundred days' wages*] is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. **8** One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, **9** There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? ... Andrew had already made contacts in the crowd, one of which was this young boy. In other words, he wasn't standing around doing nothing for he had mingled among the multitude and come across this young boy.

Once again, it was his desire to bring people to Jesus. Just as he had introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, he was mixing among the people and he brought one of them to the Lord.

Philip and the other disciples could only see the problem ... but Andrew saw the opportunity. All that great multitude having to go home hungry, but Andrew, - in believing faith, - spoke to Jesus, <sup>9</sup> *There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes ...* It was a ‘starter’ ... and even though he asked the question, - *but what are they among so many?* – it did not stop him from bringing such an apparent meagre offering to the Lord.

A third occasion when we see him being instrumental in bringing others to Jesus is in Jn. 12, <sup>20</sup> *And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: <sup>21</sup> The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. ...* Philip could have replied, Oh, yes, I know Him and I’ll bring you to Him, but instead ... <sup>22</sup> *Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. ...* That is what Philip did, - he brought people to the Saviour. He was very approachable. He wasn’t harsh or impatient with them. He didn’t ask them what they wanted and try to find out anything that wasn’t his business ... No, he simply, - in his own quiet way, - brought people to Jesus.

... *Sir, we would see Jesus ...* Isn’t that exactly what Jesus had called him to do? ... *Mt. 4:18* *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. <sup>19</sup> And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. ...* That is the purpose Jesus called him to be a disciple, and he was fulfilling his role in obedience to His Master. He knew that Jesus wouldn’t be too busy for he knew that if someone wanted to see Jesus, *Jesus* wanted to see them. Andrew knew he would never be turned away when he brought someone to the Lord.

And isn’t it significant who he brought to Jesus on this occasion in Galilee, *Mt. 4:20* *And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: <sup>21</sup> The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. ...* His brother Peter might not have been just as keen, but Andrew had no hesitation! They came to him seeking Jesus and, without any discussion he brought them. It didn’t matter who you were, and what you were, or where you came from ... Andrew had only one goal in life, - to be a ‘fisher of men’ and to make His Saviour known.

And he didn't mind being in the shadow of his brother, - ... always being known as 'Peter's brother'. His priority was to forego the glory, and was content to being 'in the background' and not getting any of the praise. ... He was one of the first two disciples called and, in fact, he had met the Lord Jesus even before his brother Peter had. His friend, John, - a fellow-fisherman from Galilee, - wrote, [Jn. 3:30](#) *He must increase, but I must decrease*, - that was the way Andrew lived out his service for the Lord too.

We don't read about him preaching a powerful sermon, like his brother and yet, he first led his brother to the Lord so that surely means all the fruit of Peter's ministry is ultimately also the fruit of Andrew's ministry. God often works that way. Spurgeon 'happened' to make his way into a Primitive Methodist meeting where someone was standing in for the minister who couldn't get to the service because of the weather ... Spurgeon was saved, and so the person who was 'filling in' that day was used, - like Andrew, - in God's almighty plan. ... Another man called Edward Kimball was the Sunday School teacher who persisted in telling the nineteen-year-old D.L. Moody he needed to be saved, and he led Moody to the Saviour. ... That is what Andrew would have done. With just the ones and twos he was used for God's glory.

And God *did* use him, - Paul wrote how he is one of the foundations of the household of God (Eph. 2:19,20). We don't hear about him after Acts 1:13, [And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew](#) etc ... and yet, he was faithful to the very end of his life in his service for the Master.

The church historian Eusebius records how he travelled north to Scythia ... in the direction of Russia, whose saint he is ... as well as being Scotland's patron saint. It is recorded he was crucified on an X-shaped cross (the 'saltire') in Achaia, near Athens. Apparently he had led the wife of a Roman governor to Christ, and the governor was so angry he had him crucified.

Such a quiet man whose priority in life was to serve the Lord to the best of his ability! They don't usually receive much recognition, but then neither do they look for it. They simply want to hear the words at the end of the course, "Well done, good and faithful servant". ... You might even wonder sometimes if you are doing enough for the Lord ... Well, if you are serving faithfully and giving Him your all, - it doesn't matter what others are managing to do, - ... for if you are giving Him your absolute best, - like Andrew, - He delights in your

service for He hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and ... the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; <sup>28</sup> And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: <sup>29</sup> That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Well, that's Andrew! A man beautifully used in the Lord's service. May we be encouraged to know God honours the faithfulness of each one of His children who are committed to bring Him the glory due unto His Name! Amen.