



“Live God’s Mission for Your Life”

Andrew studied his brother from a distance. Peter was mending his nets – stretching them out to face the early morning sunlight – allowing them to dry before he began the tedious process of repairing what time and harsh sea conditions had destroyed.

He knew from years of experience that there were far few hours available in any day to take care of many of the necessities of life. Men who fished in the open Sea of Galilee had precious little time to do even the most common of tasks.

Peter would have to make every minute count if he intended to get his nets washed and repaired in time for the evening’s work. Therefore, Andrew had no idea what his brother would say, especially today – a day of intense labor and pressure.

However, the news was far too great to withhold for another moment. Andrew wanted his brother to experience the same joy that was now overflowing from his own heart. But Peter was preoccupied—too busy for words that rang through his mind like a hammer against a hollow drum.

Pressing the issue, Andrew said, “Peter, we have found the Messiah!” Even though his brother cast a weary look his way, he continued. Andrew had left the others in an effort to be a few stapes in front of the Teacher. Jesus was coming their way, but he could tell by Peter’s gaze that his brother wasn’t buying what he was selling.

For years the Jews had prayed for the Messiah to come. Religious groups, like the Zealots, believed that they could defy Rome and somehow hasten the fulfillment of God’s promise to the nation of Israel. Peter, however, remained skeptical.

Then a voice – someone other than his brother – called out his name. Peter turned and looked into the eyes of the Savior, the Messiah, and the living Lord. “You are Simon son of John [but from now on, I will call you Cephas – Peter]” (John 1:42).

Those Who Tell Others

Andrew had done what came naturally – telling someone about Jesus. Reading through the Gospels, we find that he was always bringing someone to the Lord – the young lad with a lunch that contained only a few fish and a couple of loaves of bread, his brother Peter, and others.

His loving spirit helped him to see beyond the limitations of the political environment of his day. Like most Jews living in New Testament times, Andrew had longed for Messiah to come. But many, instead of holding onto their faith, had turned to the Roman government for security and welfare.

Rome, however, ruled the Jews without compassion. The religious oppression of Andrew’s day was great, and the punishment of those who were considered enemies of the state was both swift and severe.

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Peter, like Andrew, followed John the Baptist, but he never left the family business. Each evening, he continued to fish the waters of Galilee. Not until after he met Jesus Christ did he believe that God has another plan for his life.

It is here that we begin to realize that Peter had great potential. But also we immediately find that Andrew was not overshadowed by his brother’s personality in any way. One of the hardest things we will do as believers is to be content with the work that God has given us.

Peter may have been leadership material, but there was nothing shy about Andrew. He knew who he was in God’s eyes and the position he held in Christ’s band of disciples.

Most of us, at some point, fail to consider the potential our lives contain. But Andrew was ahead of the game. He never measured his ability by comparing himself to his brother or to others. The same should be true for you. God wants you all to Himself, and He will make His will clear as you live each day for Him.

Other spotlight-grabbing disciples did not threaten Andrew. Instead of hanging around trying to outdo his sibling or fellow disciples, Andrew was busy doing what he loved to do and that was telling others about Jesus. Finally, he had discovered what he was called to do. He now had an eternal message of hope to share, and Andrew was going to spread it around the world.

One day as Jesus taught God’s truth to a large number of people who had gathered on a rolling hillside; Andrew realized there was a problem. The people were hungry, hot, and tired, too. This is why he, not knowing what Jesus would do, brought a young boy with a small lunch to the Savior. (John 6:8)

Through Christ, this small meal became enough to feed every person present with baskets of bread and fish left over! Andrew believed in God’s potential and was part of a miraculous blessing.

The Test of Discipleship

What is a true test of discipleship? Let’s use Andrew’s life as an example.

Discipleship requires being willing to do what the Savior has given you to do without compromise. Many of us hear God’s call but fail to respond. We sense His pull on our hearts, but we push away from Him, reasoning that we can do what He is requesting at a later date.

When we avoid doing what we know God wants us to do, we miss a huge blessing. We settle for something this world may have deemed “significant” but miss the greater blessing that comes as a result of obeying God. Discipleship requires obedience and obedience is the pathway to blessing.

How do you do this? Begin with prayer. Even if you may not know how to pray, the Holy Spirit will guide your words. If you have never asked the Lord to forgive your sins, you can do that now. Confess your need of Him as your Savior and Lord, and His Spirit – the Holy Spirit – who abides in the life of every believe will bring rest to your heart and soul.

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Discipleship requires being willing to be enlisted by God for His kingdom work. The greatest joy you will ever experience is living your life for Christ – joining in His work – so that you, like Andrew, can bring others to the Savior. You may think, “I don’t have any ability to offer God.”

Andrew probably would say, “I know what you mean.” It wasn’t until he met Jesus that he found that ability within his life. No one but God knows the potential that is within each person who dedicates his or herself to the Lord.

Did Andrew have set backs in his walk with Christ? Yes. The greatest tests of faith for him and the others came following the crucifixion.

His hopes and dreams for the future appeared shattered. Could he ever believe in God’s promises again? The answer is yes, and the resurrection is the living proof of this.

Discouragement and defeat threatened their ability to think clearly. However, all of this changed the moment they saw the risen Lord. Doubt, fear, and disbelief vanish in the light of God’s presence and love.

That is what Jesus has for you – love that is eternal, grace that is truly amazing, and hope that holds as an anchor to your soul, even when the dark winds of adversity blow across your life.

As Christ’s ascension when the disciples and others were commissioned to go and preach the gospel, Andrew already had made his contacts. He took off for Greece – and continued to do what he did best – introducing others to the gift of eternal salvation through faith in Christ.

Are you living the life God has planned for you? When you make yourself available, He will show you how to do just that!