



Don Hughes

When something happens in my life, it is as if it has not happened until I have shared it with my wife. It takes no special skill or preparation to share with someone you care about the enthusiasm of a new discovery. "Look! See what I have found!" Your excited pronouncement of this event is infectious.

We see this enthusiasm many times in Scripture as someone comes to understand that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. There is one such account of someone who I think is one of the most overlooked characters in the Bible. We focus so much on individuals like Paul and his magnificent conversion, missionary journeys and deep theological teaching. However, how many people have the skills to emulate Paul? I am not sure that many churches could function very well if they had a hundred Pauls working within the congregation, but every pastor would love to have one hundred people in their congregation like the disciple Andrew. **The actions of Andrew the Disciple are only mentioned three times in Scripture and on each occasion he is bringing someone to Jesus.** Andrew wants others to know the wonderful discovery he has made.

Look what the Gospel of John says about Andrew the Disciple, *The next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned and seeing them following, said to*

The Andrew Factor

What joy is there in something good happening to you if there is absolutely no one to share it with? When you make a wonderful discovery your first reaction is probably to find someone close to you to share your find. When

them, "What do you seek?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (Teacher), "Where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah." (Which is translated, The Christ.) And he brought Him to Jesus.

Andrew is known as "The First Called." Andrew was a follower of John the Baptist. No doubt there would be times that John would explain the Law and the Prophets to his disciples more in-depth than the accounts given to us in the New Testament. In John 1:23 John the Baptist quotes from Isaiah 40:3 when he says, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the Lord." The next day he baptized Jesus and "Saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and remained upon Him." (John 1:32). The very next day after this John uttered the statement to Andrew, "Behold the Lamb of God." Andrew laid everything aside and followed Jesus. And he brought Simon Peter to Jesus! What an honor to have played such a key roll in the events that unfolded in the life of Peter.

Could you be an Andrew? Personally, I have held on to the example of Andrew in my more than thirty years as a Christian. I really don't have well-developed skills that will carry me to the front. What do I do? I put music and programs on the radio that

are not done by me, but by someone else. The Lord has used me to bring announcers to Great Plains Christian Radio that have more skill than I do. My lack of ability to sing is well documented, but for almost thirty years I have organized big events with the most talented musicians and singers in the church for this generation. I have also

promoted events with great speakers. I am an Andrew.

There are many other Andrews that have made the concerts, events and even the radio station

The actions of Andrew the Disciple are only mentioned three times in Scripture and on each occasion he is bringing someone to Jesus.

successful. There are many who invited others to one of the concert events put on by Great Plains Christian Radio. Ministers of youth have

loaded the church van and brought others to the concert events. There are Andrews that tell people about their favorite radio stations and get them to listen. Doesn't it say something that the one known as "The First Called" never wrote a word recorded in the New Testament? He never preached a sermon or uttered a memorable statement that came to be part of the account of the early Church. It is a very important calling for someone to introduce people to gifted speakers, pastors, musicians and writers that God has called to proclaim the Good News of Eternal Life.

So, where do we see Andrew again? He played a key role in one of the greatest miracles recorded in Scripture. John 6:5 *Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Phillip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."* One of

Andrew laid everything aside and followed Jesus.

his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

Obviously Andrew already knew of the boy and had perhaps discussed the need of food with the other disciples. Andrew had already evaluated the need and possible solutions, but did not have an answer. Andrew knew Jesus had the answer.

Once again we see Andrew with no special gifts of his own making himself available and bringing people to Jesus. Because of his servant heart, Andrew and this young boy play a key role in one of the greatest miracles recorded during the earthly ministry of Jesus. Don't you think that



Jesus could take your humble willingness to share with others and bless it and break it and feed a multitude? **God can wildly bless a simple act of faith.**

Mark 13:3 tells us that Andrew was with Peter, James and John when Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives and explained what will occur in the times leading up to His Second Coming. Just after the multitudes laid palms in the path of Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem, there were some Greeks who wanted to see Jesus. They went to Andrew in order to gain access and Andrew took them to Jesus. Other than these accounts the only other time that Andrew is mentioned is when the names of the disciples are listed.

We have discussed among the Deacons and Church Council where I fellowship the need of everyone to have a job...a ministry. In the life of Andrew we see



something very special in an individual used of God. What are the qualifications? An unbridled excitement about the things of God. You need to have experienced these things yourself and desire others to discover what you have come to know as the truth.

What feeds you spiritually? If you are excited about the preaching and teaching ministry of your pastor then bring people to your church to hear what is a blessing to you. Have you had someone explain their problems to you and you don't know what to tell them? I think in this day and age we would see Andrew in a Christian bookstore. There are books on every topic imaginable. Familiarize yourself with authors, titles and topics covered in Christian books. Acquaintances will come to mind that could use the encouragement of a good Christian book. Buy it and give it to them.

When you listen to KJIL and KHYM you may be encouraged by the music. Tell a friend to tune-in and listen to these broadcast ministries. Perhaps the ministry of a particular music artist is a blessing to you. Buy the compact disc and pass along to a friend who will be blessed. No doubt you have been blessed by the ministry of people like Dr. James Dobson, Chuck Swindoll, Charles Stanley, Adrian Rogers, Woodrow Kroll and others. Tell friends about what has been an inspiration to you and have them listen. What about referring someone or taking someone to a crisis pregnancy center that is in need of their services?

To some extent we don't need new ministries. We need Andrews who will better utilize what has already been developed. I mentioned that Andrew was known as "The First Called." He also has another nick name, "The Introducer." Indeed, a high calling. Whereas a church may have only one pastor, it needs many with the title of "Introducer."

You better get started or you will never know what great things God will use you to do. Ephesians 2:10, *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.* Andrew walked in good works that God had prepared in advance for him to do.

