

=THE APOSTLES=

Lesson 2

The Apostle Andrew

AIM: to teach my pupils the story of Andrew, the apostle.

POINT OF CONTACT: Name some brothers in the Lord's work who have grown famous. Examples of this would be John and Charles Wesley, John and Bill Rice, Moses and Aaron, etc. Another point of contact would be to name some lesser lights who have been a help to bigger lights—in other words, good helpers, good assistants, etc. Stress to the pupils here the importance of doing one's job even though he isn't in charge or isn't the boss. There would be no people like Peter if there were no people like Andrew!

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ANDREW.

1. He was born in Bethsaida.
2. He was reared near the Sea of Galilee.
3. He grew up in a fisherman's home.
4. He was quiet and yet steady. He had an impetuous brother who was more talented, more gifted and, yes, even more successful. Andrew was more of a quiet, easygoing person.
5. His name, Andrew, means "manly." This means he was a manly fellow. He was masculine. (Those who teach boys, stress the importance of a boy being manly. Stress the importance of physical exercise and participation in masculine activity, etc. Warn about becoming a "sissy.")
6. He lived in Capernaum, right on the Sea of Galilee.
7. He was converted. One day he heard of a preacher whose name was John the Baptist. Andrew came to hear him. He noticed what a peculiar man this was, dressed in camel's hair and eating locusts and wild honey. He was crying, "...Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." This preacher told of Another. He told that he was not the Light, but that he was the forerunner of the Light. He said, "There cometh One after me Who will baptize us with fire and Whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose." (See Matthew 3:11) One day while John the Baptist was preaching, Jesus came. In John 1:29 this preacher pointed to Jesus and said, "...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Andrew saw Jesus. He followed Him, spent the day with Him, and received Him as his Saviour.
8. Andrew became a real soul winner. He was never very spectacular. He was never a leader. He was simply a good follower. He was not in the inner circle of the apostles as were Peter, James, and John; but he was listed fourth. In other words, he was probably the best of the lesser lights among the apostles.
9. He won his family to Jesus Christ. See John 1:40-42. In other words, he was concerned about his family. No doubt, the first thought that came into his mind after he had found the Messiah was to get his brother, Peter, saved. He came to Peter and said something like this: "Peter, do you remember the prophecy in the Old Testament that concerned the coming Messiah? Do you remember the lambs that have been offered and the sacrifices that have been made and special days, etc.? These all pointed to Jesus Christ. Peter, I met the Messiah! I met Jesus! He is my Saviour. I want you to come." The word "brought" in verse 42 seems to mean a little more than just "led him to Christ." He actually physically insisted and persuaded Peter to come.
10. Andrew was a great children's worker. Probably one of the best junior workers in all history was Andrew. It was Andrew who persuaded the little lad to give Jesus his loaves and fishes when the 5,000 were fed. In John 6 Jesus performed the great miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. This was followed by the great discourse on the "bread of life." Notice John 6:8, 9. A little lad had a lunch basket. Have you ever tried to take a little lad's lunch basket away from him when he was hungry? Bear in mind, it was time to eat. The little lad had brought his lunch for the day. Andrew persuaded the little lad to give his lunch. This took a tremendous amount of child psychology and influence. Andrew was perhaps a junior superintendent or a junior boys' teacher; at least, he would have made an excellent one. He was trying to influence a little lad to give his all for Jesus Christ, and so we ought to do. Let us take all the children in our classes and tell them that they should give all to Christ. It may be simply loaves and fishes, but Jesus can do more with it than they can. The apostles had said, "Send them home," but Andrew had faith. He felt that something could be done, so he worked with the child.

Think what a child can do for Christ. Think of the potential wrapped up in the little children that come on our buses and the children who sit in our classes and children's groups. Let us give our classes and children's groups our very best efforts. They deserve our best.

11. Andrew was concerned about people of other races. Notice John 12:20-22. Some Greeks came to see Jesus. Andrew and Philip told Jesus about the Greeks' coming. He had a burden for foreigners. He had a heart for souls. Practically everywhere in the Bible we find Andrew, he was winning someone to Christ or telling Christ about someone or bringing someone to see Jesus.
12. He was a man of prayer. Read Acts 1:13. After Jesus ascended to Heaven, the disciples went to the upper room and spent ten days in prayer and supplication. Andrew was with them. He was a man of prayer.
13. Andrew later hit the high seas and preached all over. He landed in Achaia, and there he tried to win the council to Jesus Christ, so tradition has it.
14. He suffered martyrdom for Jesus Christ. This is very interesting. Jesus was crucified on the cross. Peter was crucified also but was crucified upside down because he thought he was not worthy to be killed like Jesus was. Andrew was crucified on a cross, but legend has it that he was crucified diagonally. His cross was neither standing up straight nor turned upside down, but it was leaning over with two points touching the ground. Once again, he was not worthy to be crucified like Jesus and felt not worthy to be crucified like Peter, but he did die for the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION: Andrew was never spectacular. He never preached on Pentecost, but he won the fellow who did. He never fed 5,000, but he took the lunch basket and gave it to the One Who did. He never gave a lunch basket, but he found a fellow who had one. He did not do much for the Greeks, but he knew Who could and brought them to Jesus. He was not one of the three main apostles, but he was the fourth. He was a steady, hard-working, wonderful Christian.

He was the kind of person who makes churches. If all were pastors, where would the church be? He is the kind who would be a good deacon, a good Sunday school worker, a good teacher, a good layman. He was the kind who would tithe and follow and be faithful in the work of the Lord. He would not need much attention or praise. He would simply be steady about his work as well as be kind, loving, compassionate, helpful. He is the kind that God has given us at Pacific Baptist Church. Let us teach our boys and girls that every child will not grow up to be a Peter or a John, but every child could grow up to be an Andrew. The truth is, we should set our goals to be Andrews, and then God will choose the Peters from the Andrews. Everyone can be an Andrew. Let us teach our boys and girls not to set their goals to be leaders but rather to set their goals to be good Christians, and God will choose leaders from them.