

BE AN ANDREW

JOHN 1:35-42

We're in a series of messages we've called, [People Last Forever](#). We're talking about sharing our faith...

And the title of this AM's message, "[Be An Andrew](#)."

Again, 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 them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, 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.

At 535 Terry Avenue North in Seattle, WA sits the Wainwright Office Building. It's part of the [amazon.com](#) campus. The building was named after John Wainwright.

I'll get to Wainwright in just a moment, but first Amazon.com... In 2015 Amazon.com passed Walmart as the most valuable retailer in America. Amazon is now our country's fourth richest public corporation.

Jeff Bezos launched Amazon as an online bookseller in 1994. The first book purchased on Amazon.com by a non-employee was titled, “[Fluid Concepts and Creative Analogies.](#)” It’s a computer engineering book by Douglas Hofstadter - *a real page turner, I’m sure.* It cost \$27.95.

*And guess who purchased it? **John Wainwright!*** And because he was their first customer, Amazon recognized Wainwright by naming an office building in his honor.

And if we, Christians, followed suit we would need to name something after [Andrew, the first person to follow Jesus.](#) In fact, the early church called the Apostle Andrew, “[protocletes](#)” which means, “[the first called.](#)”

Andrew was the first person to follow Jesus.

He was the first person to bring a friend to Jesus.

He was the first person to bring Gentiles to Jesus.

There is a principle of biblical interpretation known as the “[Law Of First Mention.](#)” The idea that the initial place a subject appears sets the pace and provides insights into all the other times the same reference is mentioned.

And that is certainly the case with Andrew.

That Jesus would call a person like Andrew first, clues us in to the traits He desires most in all His followers.

There’s a lot we can learn from Andrew.

[Andrew was one of four disciples](#) who were fishermen by trade. With his older brother Peter, and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John - Andrew grew up in Bethsaida, a small fishing village on the northeast shore of the Sea of

Galilee. At some point all four men moved east along the shore to the larger town of Capernaum.

Near Capernaum there's a place where seven springs flow into the lake. The warmer spring water attracts fish. *Good fishermen go with the fish;* thus they relocated.

But when news arrived in Galilee about this wild man prophet who had emerged from the Judean desert, and was challenging the Jewish establishment in Jerusalem, Andrew could no longer focus on his fishing. Apparently, he'd been longing to know God's truth, and he'd seen the sins of his people. He knew they needed a Savior.

So when John the Baptist came preaching "**repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,**" Andrew, and another of his friends (*probably the Apostle John*), traveled south to the banks of the Jordan River to check out the Baptist.

Both Andrew and John embraced his message and became his followers. But their discipleship under John's tutelage was short-lived. For one day, John the Baptist was standing with Andrew and John, when Jesus walked passed. And we're told what the Baptist did, "**Looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, 'Behold the Lamb of God.'**"

This was John's mission. Not to attract people to himself, but to point them to Jesus. As John explained in John 3:30, "**He must increase, but I must decrease.**"

Andrew and John heard Jesus speak - *what He said I wish we knew, it must've been revolutionary for they threw caution to the wind - said good-bye to their former mentor - and trusted this Man they had barely met.*

We're told, "Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" To us this sounds like a choke!

Imagine, getting to ask Jesus, the All-wise, Lord of glory, one question, *and you waste it on His address?*

I think I'd ask Jesus *the reason bad things happen to good people - or the mysteries of Creation - or nuclear fusion...* I'd ask for more than directions to His house!

But their question isn't as lame as we might first think.

In the first century a close relationship existed between a Jew and his rabbi. It was not uncommon for a rabbi's disciples to move into his house, and live under his roof. They ate, and slept, and worked side-by-side.

You learned from your rabbi by doing life together.

So when Andrew and John asked Jesus, "*where are You staying?*" They were asking to join Him in life. They would stay by His side for the foreseeable future.

And I love how Jesus replied, "He said to them, "Come and see." Oh, the amazing and miraculous sights they *would* see over the next three-and-a-half years!

I wonder if Andrew and John fully grasped - that by accepting Jesus' invitation that day, to "*Come and see*" - it would radically alter the trajectory of their lives forever.

This morning I want to talk about this disciple named Andrew - the "*protocletes*" or "*first called.*" And I want to note three aspects of what we know about his example.

He lived in the shadow of someone else... On several occasions he came out of the shadows to make a difference in a situation... And at the end of his life, he left no shadow of a doubt as to his allegiance to Jesus.

Here's Andrew's life in a nutshell... **in the shadows, out of the shadows**, and **no shadow of a doubt**...

First, Andrew lived in the shadow of his big brother, Simon Peter. And I'm sure Peter cast a enormous shadow - both literally and figuratively. There's a church tradition that ascribes to Pete the nickname, "*The Giant.*"

Evidently, Peter was large in stature. He was probably the starting middle linebacker for the High School football team... while Andrew played on the JV!

And personality-wise, again Peter cast an imposing shadow. He was the type-A, take-charge, action-oriented disciple. It was Peter, not Andrew, who dared to walk on water, and eventually sunk... It was an impulsive Pete who got so excited when he recognized the risen Christ on the seashore, that he jumped from the boat with his clothes on, and swam to the Master... In both cases, a more reserved Andrew stayed in the boat.

I'm not saying Andrew lacked personality. To the contrary, I'm sure he was a gifted man who was pleasant to be around. But you would never know it when Peter was in the room. *Peter dominated. And Andrew let him.*

It's interesting that even the Gospel writers foster this impression of Andrew living in his brother's shadow.

Matthew knew both the brothers. They lived together in Jesus' merry band. But when he lists the twelve disciples in 10:2, he

does so as follows, “Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother...” Why didn’t Matthew write, “first Andrew, and Peter his brother?”

Later both Matthew and Mark record the more formal calling of Jesus’ disciples, where the Lord challenges them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

But both Gospel writers use the language, “(Jesus) saw Simon and Andrew his brother...” Apparently, Andrew was known as Peter’s brother - not vice versa.

Andrew lived his whole life in his big brother’s shadow.

Yet not once do we get the impression that this bothered Andrew. He never resented his brother, and the attention that came his way. To our knowledge, Andrew never got frustrated or angry at his more famous sibling.

The 1975 Country Music Artist of the Year went to the upstart musician, John Denver. At the time traditionalists in Country Music didn’t like Denver’s new pop-country blend. At the Awards Show, when Charlie Rich opened the envelope, and saw that Denver had won, rather than read his name, he took out a cigarette lighter, set fire to the card, and walked off the stage. *Wow, talk about jealousy!* Charlie Rich’s actions reeked with resentment.

But what if Jesus announced that your big brother was getting “the keys to His kingdom,” *what would you have done? Would you have resented it or celebrated?*

Andrew was a humble guy. He rejoiced in his brother’s promotion. It was James and John (*and I’m sure Peter*) who got

into all the arguing matches over who was the greatest in God's Kingdom - *not little brother, Andrew.*

Andrew new his place. It was where Jesus wanted him to be. And when it's all about Jesus... when you're filled with His love... when you live in His light... you don't notice someone else's shadow. The Baptist taught Andrew well, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

In fact, the first move Andrew makes as a new believer is to go tell his brother that he's found the Messiah.

John 1:40 recalls, "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."

It was Andrew who brought Peter to Jesus!

I'm sure Andrew knew that given Peter's personality he would eventually take a more prominent position than himself, but that consideration never entered his mind. He love his big brother, and "*brought him to Jesus.*"

Peter did go on to use *the keys of the Kingdom* that Jesus gave him. It was Peter who preached the Gospel on the Day of Pentecost, *the Church's open house*, and 3000 souls were saved. Peter enjoyed the limelight that day. *But who brought Peter into the light years earlier?*

I can imagine, Andrew standing in the shadows cheering on his big brother - taking great satisfaction that he too had made a contribution. Andrew didn't preach the sermon, but he brought to Jesus, the man who did.

This is why Jesus made Andrew - not Peter - “the protocletes” - “the first called.” Our Lord was making a statement. He was encouraging every Christian who would follow. Not everybody is like Peter - bold enough or skilled enough to stand in front of thousands and preach an inaugural message - but everyone can go and bring another person to Jesus - *a friend... a co-worker... a family member... a neighbor... even a big brother...*

You may never stand behind a pulpit and preach a sermon, but we all can bring somebody to Jesus.

Moishe Rosen started the missionary organization known as “Jews For Jesus” His focus was on winning Jewish people to their Messiah. Moishe Rosen had a huge heart for evangelism. He was a bold witness.

Once, when introducing his wife, he commented, “Ceil isn’t much of a soul-winner. The only folks she ever won to Christ are her daughters *and me.*” The crowd laughed.

Like Peter, Moishe Rosen, preached to thousands of people about Jesus - but like Andrew, his wife won the evangelist. Peter had a heart for the masses, but Andrew had a heart for the individual in the shadows.

At the time, Andrew told Peter about Jesus, he wasn’t yet Peter. His name was Simon. He was a nobody to everybody, but Andrew. And he *“brought him to Jesus.”*

It reminds me of Mordecai Ham. He was a southern evangelist who did a swing through North Carolina in the early 1930s. Not much came from his meetings, except the conversion of a teenager boy known as Billy Frank.

Ham's ministry would've disappeared from the pages of history had it not been for Billy Frank, or Billy Graham as you know him. Graham went on to share the Gospel with 2.2 billion people - more than any other preacher in history. *But who led Graham to Christ? Mordecai Ham.*

There's an old saying, "You can count the apples on a tree, but who can count the apples in a seed?" When you lead a person to Jesus, you sow a seed that will live on and on - you may never know the ultimate results.

My brother, Ken Adams, pastors a thriving church in the Newnan area of Metro-Atlanta. Ken's ministry is now responsible for thousands of people coming to Jesus.

Yet I remember how Ken was converted. When he was just a boy somebody in our church sent him an anonymous letter. In the letter this person expressed their concern for Ken's salvation. It caused him to think.

It was because of that letter, and someone's concern, that Ken came to saving faith in Jesus - and now thousands of people have followed him. My point is, you never know what might come from that one person.

And I love the fact our text tells us that Andrew "**found his own brother.**" Andrew knew exactly who he needed to reach. He made a beeline to Peter. He **found him.**

Several weeks ago I talked about divine appointments. There are times when God engineers a rendezvous. A surprise encounter occurs. The Holy Spirit sets it up.

But here Andrew knew that Peter was the target.

From the moment he decided to follow Jesus, Peter was on his mind. It was so obvious. Andrew couldn't leave his brother behind. He too, needed to follow Jesus.

In the early days of the fiery Methodist revival, the British aristocrats refused to hire Methodist cooks; for these cooks made it their duty to convert the maids, and housekeepers, and eventually all the “*downstairs*” help.

They were so *on fire* for God they just grabbed the person next to them, and told them about Jesus.

The Methodists didn't pray for weeks, asking God to identify the person they should target. They just took the next person in line. They made the obvious choice.

And this is what Andrew did. He had a brother, and surely he also needed Jesus, so he brought his brother.

It was because Andrew lived in the shadows that he understood the value of small, seemingly insignificant things. He appreciated the lone individual. He had an eye for the details. He knew the importance of the few.

It's been said, “Some people won't play in the band unless they can hit the big drum.” That wasn't Andrew. Even the little, paltry stuff didn't escape his attention.

And this is what, at times, brought Andrew out of the shadows to make a difference in a life, or in a situation.

Remember John 6, Jesus wanted to spend some private time with He and His disciples - but at that time, private moments were few and far between.

In fact, John 6:5 reads, “Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him (so much for escaping the crowd), He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” In other words, is there a Chick-fil-A near-by? Maybe a Publix?

John 6:6 gives us a heads up - insider information. “But this (Jesus) said to test (Philip), for He Himself knew what He would do.” Jesus had a plan. He was testing Philip to see if he had just an inkling of faith.

“Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.” Philip was the pragmatic disciple.

He whipped out his calculator app and created an equation. To feed a crowd of 5000 men, with women and children - he figures it'll cost at least 200 denarii.

This was a large sum of money - about eight month's wages - for a modern equivalency figure \$40,000. But the one factor Philip left out of his figures, *was Jesus!*

That's when we're told in John 6:8, “One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother (notice he's still in his brother's shadow), said to Him, there is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?” Andrew comes out of the shadows because he sees a possibility no one else saw. Remember, Andrew had an eye for little things.

Even though it was a child, and the portions were meager, Andrew doesn't dismiss it. He senses that somehow this might factor into what Jesus will do.

I believe there was faith in Andrew's actions. Maybe not a robust faith. Maybe just a "*could-be faith.*" But he came out of the shadows because he saw a possibility.

Despite its meagerness - he believed Jesus cared about *little boys*, and He could work with *little portions*. And so again, Andrew brought somebody to Jesus.

And now we know the rest of the story!

Jesus worked a miracle of multiplication. Earlier the winds and waves had obeyed Him, but now so do the electrons and protons. Jesus rearranges the molecular structure of those five loaves and two minnows in order to feed 15,000 hungry people - and still have leftovers.

Jesus fed a stadium full of people with a Kid's Meal.

But it wouldn't have happened had Andrew not come out of the shadows and brought a lad and his lunch to Jesus. It seems Andrew saw *possibilities* not *problems*.

This is what creates a great witness for Jesus - *a person who can see the possibilities*. If you're always thinking, "[Why waste my time on him, there's no way he's going to become a Christian... Or she's so far gone, she'll never listen](#)" - then no one will be reached.

Just be glad the person who led you to Christ didn't take that attitude toward you. They saw a possibility.

I think it's interesting that Andrew saw a child with his lunch box, and brought him to Jesus. Most adults I know would've overlooked a child. Just shuffle the kid off to childcare, and

focus on the mission at hand. But for Andrew *this little kid* represented *a great possibility*.

This is why we need Andrews in our church - who see the potential in *our* kids and young people, and appreciate their possibilities. Andrew brought a young boy to Jesus. And God might want you to do the same.

Don't ever *leave a child or grandchild home from church, especially a teenager? Are you kidding me?*

Kids need biblical teaching and spiritual influence more than adults. We need to make heavy investments in our SS and youth groups. Like Andrew let's bring our kids to Jesus. And like the boy with his lunch, Jesus will work great miracles in and through their lives.

Once DL Moody came home from a evangelistic meeting. His wife asked her husband how it went...

Moody said, *"We had two and a half converts."* She replied, *"Oh, you had two adults and one child."*

Moody answered, *"No, we had two children and one adult. The adults have already lived half their life. It's the two children who gave their whole lives to Jesus."*

Andrew would've agreed with his assessment.

There is a painting by the Spanish artist, Bartolome Murillo. It's entitled, *"Martyrdom of Saint Andrew."* It flashes forward to Andrew's eventual crucifixion.

But on the edges of the scene Murillo has painted a boy. His face is in a rag. He's wiping away his tears.

It turns out in Murillo's mind this boy was the young lad who Andrew brought to Jesus with his loaves and fish. And this

boy loved Andrew - he'd followed him all the way to His martyrdom. It was Andrew who had seen a possibility in him that nobody else had seen.

Let's bring the boys and girls around us to Jesus.

And there's one other incident where Andrew comes out of the shadows to bring someone to Jesus.

In John 12:20 we're told, **"Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.'**" Jesus was a Jewish rabbi. These seekers were Greeks - or Gentiles. Usually, Jews frowned on fraternizing with Gentiles. That's why to get an audience with Jesus these Greeks thought their best opportunity was the disciple with the Greek name.

So they came to **Philip**. They were hoping Philip could show them a little favoritism, and bypass any anti-Greek sentiment, and connect them with Jesus.

But there was one other disciple with a Greek name. It was **Andreas**, or **Andrew**. He was certainly Hebrew. In fact, his brother, Simon, had a Hebrew name, but for some reason his parents gave Andrew a Greek name.

And apparently, it had an effect on Andreas. He had a fondness for Greeks. The other disciples were patently Jewish. Peter would later have a tough time getting over his prejudices and preaching the Gospel to Gentiles. It took a rooftop vision to convince him.

But Andrew seems to have the opposite attitude. He had a sympathy for Gentiles from the very beginning.

That's why John 12:22 tells us, "Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus."

Philip didn't have the stature to stand up to the opposition he might've encountered from the Big Three: *Peter, James, and John*. But Andrew wasn't intimidated. It was just his brother and his fishing buds.

Besides Andrew understood *grace was for every race*, even before Paul and the NT hammered out the doctrine. He had no issue bringing a group of Greeks to Jesus. Andrew was privileged and honored to do so.

And I hope we've dealt with our prejudices and bigotries. We're called to bring people to Jesus, but we don't always get to decide who those people will be.

If you're only willing to reach out to people like you; then you don't understand the Gospel or Christianity.

Do you realize Jesus belongs to ALL people? He is the Savior of the world! "For God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." Don't you dare marginalize Jesus to the one group that's your favorite.

We're not *American believers*, or *Southern believers*, or *African believers*, or *Asian believers* - we're believers in the Jesus who sets up no fences and has no borders. He has taken down the walls of separation.

Andrew's ethnicity was Hebrew.

His name was Greek.

His skin color was probably some various shade of brown.
But his heart was as big as the whole world!

And that's what matters - not a man's race, or pigment, or birthright - but the size of his heart. **Jesus enlarges our heart to embrace the whole world.**

It's no surprise that even today the patron saint of Greece is none other than their ancient friend, Andrew.

It's interesting, we don't know if Jesus ever spoke to the Greeks Andrew and Philip brought to Him - *let alone what He said, if He did* - but there's a church tradition that says one of the Greeks who sought Jesus that day was the another Gospel writer - *Doctor Luke*.

Luke was Paul's friend, a convert to Christianity. Perhaps, Andrew paved the way for Luke to be saved.

When he was needed Andrew was always willing to come out of the shadows and influence a life for Jesus.

Andrew lived his life **in the shadow of Peter**. He came **out of the shadows to bring people to Jesus**. And **lastly, he left no shadow of a doubt as to his loyalty**.

As I mentioned Andrew died a martyr's death.

When Jesus first called Andrew, remember what He told him? **"Come and see."** It was rabbinical language. A disciple learned by example, from watching his rabbi.

And Andrew not only *lived* by example, he *died* by His Master's example. He too, was crucified for Jesus' sake.

Tradition has it that Andrew journeyed to a small village in Achaia, or southern Greece. Even at an old age he still had a heart for the Grecians. And it was in the town of Patrae that Andrew preached the Gospel.

It didn't take long for a woman and her brother-in-law to come to faith in Jesus. *There was only one problem.*

This woman was the wife of the local governor, and the man was his brother. This pagan governor hated Christianity. He didn't want to see his family following Jesus, so the governor ordered the execution of Andrew.

Andrew was sentenced to be crucified, but because he didn't feel worthy to die as Jesus did, he asked to be hung from an X-shaped cross. Today, such a cross is known as the [saltire \(sal-ter\)](#) - or St. Andrew's cross.

Tradition has it, Andrew hung from the cross in the square of Patrae for two full days proclaiming his faith in Jesus. He was declaring to anyone and everyone, what John had declared to him so many years earlier, "[Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.](#)"

Andrew even spoke fondly of embracing the cross. In an ancient text dating to the sixth century, the following words are attributed to Andrew at his crucifixion...

["O Cross, before the Lord mounted you, you inspired an earthly fear. Now instead, endowed with heavenly love, you are accepted as a gift. I come to you, confident and joyful, so that you too may receive me triumphant as a disciple of the One who was hung upon you...."](#)

["O blessed Cross, clothed in the majesty and beauty of the Lord's limbs!... Take me, carry me far from men, and restore me to my Teacher, so that, through you, the one who redeemed me by you, may receive me."](#) Was there any shadow of a doubt that Andrew followed Jesus?

Seven centuries after his death a Catholic missionary brought relics attributed to Andrew to an area in Scotland called “Fife.” Because of these relics, Andrew became the patron saint of not just Greece, but Scotland as well.

Today, a St. Andrew’s cross is on the flag of Scotland.

Actually, in the area of “Fife” is the historic town of “[Saint Andrews](#).” - *famous as the home of golf, and it’s world renown course.* And Andrew should be associated with a golf course, for he will always be known *as par for the course* when it comes to bringing people to Jesus.

Years ago the Billy Graham Association launched a campaign in conjunction with their crusades to encourage Christians to share their faith and reach their friends. The program was called, “[Operation Andrew](#).”

While in North Carolina, one of the BGA pastors, Hank Beukema, was approached by an 82 year old woman.

This lady was involved in OA, but she confessed, “[I haven’t led anyone to Christ for many years. I’ve been trying to think of people to invite to the crusade, but I just don’t seem to have any non-Christian friends anymore.](#)”

Well, fast forward to the night of the crusade.

Buekema was standing near the altar after the service when he felt a tug on his coat. It was the same lady.

She said, “[I’ve been going to the grocery store twice a day on purpose. I used to go once a week. Every time I go I make sure I get the same checkout girl. We’ve become friends.](#)” Pointing to the altar, she said excitedly, “[There she is. She’s being counseled for salvation.](#)”

But that's not the end of the story. A few nights after that, again Buekema felt a tug on his coat. And again it was this 82 year old lady. She asked, "How do I look?"

He wasn't sure how he to answer, but she didn't wait. She said, "I've been to the beauty parlor twice this week. I haven't been in years. I go to the same beautician. We are now friends. She's over there being counseled."

This 82 year old lady became an Andrew. She wasn't much of a preacher, but she knew the value of small things, and individuals, and coming out of the shadows to make a difference. **She brought people to Jesus.**

And you can too! You can think of a way to rub up against somebody who needs Jesus and offer an invite.

There's an old saying, "There's only one thing better than going to heaven... and that's taking someone with you." I'll bet you it was Andrew who coined that saying.

You can be an Andrew. You can bring someone to Jesus... *your brother, your mother, your spouse, your child, your neighbor, your friend, your co-worker, your teammate, your beautician, the child down the street...*

I believe Andrew was the **first called**, for he embodied God's strategy for evangelism. Jesus knew, that with a few exceptions, this world would be won, *one at a time.*

This Easter be an Andrew. Look around you and see the possibilities. Find somebody, young or old - like you, or maybe not like you - but bring them to Jesus.

Invite someone to church Easter Sunday.

People are open to spiritual invitations during the holidays - at Christmas and Easter. Let's take advantage of this seasonal openness and bring them to Jesus. *You may never know the difference your invitation makes!*