



REDEMPTION

MAKING MUCH OF JESUS

John 1:40-42

A Life Well Lived

3/30/2020 - 4/5/2020

MAIN POINT

As disciples of Jesus, our task is to constantly be connecting others to the Jesus we know.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What is the greatest challenge for you in sharing your faith?

Is anyone in your immediate family a non-Christian? If so, briefly share what your experience of sharing your faith with that person has been like.

Though Andrew is only mentioned three times in the gospels, each time he is shown bringing someone to Jesus, beginning with his brother. Often we look at the earliest disciples and think we are not like them. We are not gifted preachers, like Peter, who gave the first Christian sermon to 3000 people. We do not see ourselves as someone like Paul who is called to travel to the ends of the earth on missionary journeys. But all of us can be like Andrew. Each one of us knows someone who does not know Jesus, and we have the ability and opportunity to bring them to Jesus.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

Have a volunteer read John 1:40-42.

Peter's brother, Andrew, is the least known of the four disciples in the inner circle. Andrew ordinarily is left very much in the background, yet he was used by the Lord to touch one who touched thousands. Andrew can be referred to as the inviter, or the bringer or the introducer. Had Andrew never been born, the New Testament could have changed significantly. Peter

may have never been saved. Someone else would have preached the famous Pentecost sermon. We would have to eliminate two books of the New Testament, 1 and 2 Peter. Only heaven knows what else would have been left out of the Bible and church history. Andrew was the first of all the disciples to be called. His eagerness to follow Christ, combined with his zeal for introducing others to Christ, fairly typifies Andrew's character. The news Andrew heard was too good to keep to himself, so he went and found the one person in the world he most loved, whom he most wanted to know Jesus, and let him to Christ. The life-changing experience of welcoming Jesus into your life usually begins with a person telling you about Christ and what He has done for that person.

What did Andrew first say to his brother after finding Jesus? Do you imagine Andrew excited when he did this?

What was the outcome of Andrew following Jesus? With whom did Andrew share his faith?

What might it mean to "bring" people to Jesus today when Jesus is no longer conducting His earthly ministry?

Andrew appreciated the value of a single soul. He was known for bringing individuals, not crowds, to Jesus. Almost every time we see him in the gospel accounts, he is bringing someone to Jesus.

Andrew brought Peter to Jesus: Just one.

Andrew brought the boy with his lunch to Jesus: Just one.

Andrew has been referred to as the first home missionary because of the Jewish people he brought to Jesus. Andrew has also been referred to as the first foreign missionary because of the Greeks he brought to Jesus in John 12:20-22.

Most people do not come to Christ and an immediate response to a sermon they hear in a crowded setting. They come to Christ because of the influence of an individual. Andrew brought one – Peter. Peter then brought thousands. All the fruit of Peter's ministry is ultimately also the fruit of Andrew's faithful individual witness.

How can we, like Andrew, use our natural relationships—friend to friend, brother to brother—to share the gospel?

Notice that Andrew did not wait until he had studied long and hard the ways of witnessing. He did not have the benefit of an in-depth study of how to witness—he simply told Peter what he knew about Jesus. We should not wait to witness until we have all the answers, rather we should simply tell others about who Jesus is and how He has changed our lives.

Think about the influence Peter had over the early church. What might have happened if Andrew had not been bold enough to bring Peter to Jesus?

When did you first believe in Jesus? Who played a role in reaching you with this message?

When we first meet Andrew, he immediately brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus. He was referred to as Simon Peter's brother because at the time the gospel was written, Peter was the better known of the two. In this account we notice the most basic and effective form of evangelism the church has ever known: one person takes the gospel to another. We serve a God that is worth knowing and worth introducing to other people.

Andrew's relative anonymity could have discouraged him. However, he became a picture of all those who labor quietly in humble places. Andrew did not mind being hidden as long as the work was being done. He was a leader with a servant's heart. Andrew never preached to multitudes or founded any churches.

Look again at verse 42. What is significant about Jesus' words to Simon Peter?

What does this show us about how Jesus views those who come and follow Him?

Andrew brought Simon to Jesus and a redeemed, broken humanity has been doing the same thing from thereafter. Once Christ changes a life, the person cannot but help to reach out to others who are hurting or in pain, for we broken creatures have been in the same situations but now have seen the King, the Messiah. Upon seeing Simon, Jesus did a curious thing—He looked deeply into Simon's life and simply spoke to the man he really was. Rather than renaming Simon, Jesus simply diagnosed Simon's personality, calling him Cephas (Aramaic for "rock," equivalent to Greek "Peter"). From henceforth Simon would primarily be called (even by Paul) by his nickname given him by Jesus.

Tradition has it that Andrew took the gospel north into Russia, possibly Scotland. He was ultimately crucified in Achaia, which is in southern Greece, near Athens. One account says he led a wife of a provincial Roman governor to Christ and that it infuriated her husband. He demanded that his wife recant her devotion to Jesus Christ, and she refused. So the governor had Andrew crucified. He was lashed to the cross instead of nailed, in order to prolong his suffering. Tradition says it was an X-shaped cross. Most accounts say he hung on the cross for two days, exhorting passersby to turn to Christ for salvation.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Some Christians say one obstacle to their witnessing is the fact that they know very few non-believers. What can we do to overcome this barrier to carrying out Jesus' command? How can you create margin in your life to meet and engage non-believers?

What are the main challenges or barriers that keep you from living a life that demonstrates the love and grace of Jesus? What opportunities are presented to you on a daily basis?

What is the role of Scripture in inviting people to relationship with Jesus? What Scriptures would you use to share Jesus? Have you considered memorizing Scripture for this purpose?

PRAYER

As you close in prayer thank God for inviting you into a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. Pray that God would use regular Christians to invite disconnected people into a relationship with God. Ask that God would make you a bold witness for Him, one who is eager to invite others to know Him.

COMMENTARY

John 1:40-42

1:40. Andrew's name is mentioned for the first time in verse 40. He had been a disciple of John the Baptist. Now he followed Jesus. The two mentioned in these verses were among the first to follow Jesus in discipleship and service. Following Jesus means more than walking with Him down the road. It means commitment and obedience.

1:41-42. Andrew is introduced to readers of the first century as Simon Peter's brother. Peter's name was more well-known than Andrew's by the time the Gospels were written, so this reference would help identify both men. Andrew first found his own brother. First shows the importance and urgency of sharing this discovery with his brother. To do this, he had to seek his brother. And when he found Simon, he brought him to Jesus. He didn't force him, but he did bring him. He brought him with his testimony about Jesus, and Simon went with him.

Many Christians have a brother or another close relative who has not followed Jesus. We can seek to bring them to Jesus.

Later in the story of Jesus we find Andrew again leading people to Jesus. John the Gospel writer was showing his readers that this was what Andrew did best. He began with his brother, but he was also the disciple who brought to Jesus the boy whose lunch was multiplied to feed 5,000 men and their families (6:8- 9). Andrew also brought to Jesus a group of inquiring Greeks (12:20-22). Andrew was one of the Twelve, but he was not as well known as Simon Peter. However, Andrew had one talent much to be desired—he brought people to Jesus.

Andrew's witness to Simon Peter was straightforward, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. John, in writing the Gospel, knew that many Gentiles would be reading this, so he explained that Messiah meant the Christ or "Anointed One" (HCSB). We are not told of Peter's immediate response when he met Jesus, perhaps because of what Jesus said to him: Thou art Simon the son of John: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone. Both the Aramaic word Cephas and the Greek word Peter mean Rock. Peter did not quickly become a rock, but eventually he did. Jesus' words to Simon illustrate His ability to see us not as we are, but as we can become by His transforming power. We also are not told what Simon said when Jesus spoke to him.