

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew** 108- Jesus Chooses His Apostles- Part 5 Andrew

Church August 04, 2024

Matthew 10:1-4

1 Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;

4 Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

The Passage that Brother Vern just read is where Jesus is choosing His twelve Apostles- of which Matthew is one. Now we have met some of these men before because the Lord has been calling them to Himself- first to believe in Him; and then to follow Him as “Disciples”; “Students”; or “Learners”.

So, out of the huge crowd of people that followed Jesus everywhere He went- is a smaller Group of Disciples or *mathetes* or Learners- which were probably several hundred men. And out of that Group of Disciples, Jesus is now selecting these twelve men- not to be simply Disciples- but to become Jesus’ own “*Shalia*”; or “*Apostles*” or “*Messengers*”, or “*Sent Ones*”.

And once those men have been selected- they will now be taken to a personal level of Training with the Lord like they have never known. And as I reminded you last week- in His Gospel Account- Mark says that these men were also drawn to Jesus- “**to gather together with Jesus**” (**Mark 6:30**)- which shows a *closeness* and an *intimacy* with Jesus that the Apostles had- that neither the Disciples nor the huge crowd experienced.

So now Jesus is pulling these twelve men in real close for special Training- so Jesus can *multiply* Himself before He goes to Jerusalem o die. At this point- Jesus has about two years left before He is crucified and before He sends these men out to proclaim the Gospel to the whole world- so they can establish the Church. And I just want to remind you that, even though these twelve men were very *ordinary* and *common*- what Jesus called them to do is breathtaking- because it literally changed the world!

Now all of these men are Galileans except one- Judas Iscariot- and he came from a region called, “*Kerioth*”. But beside Judas- all of them come from the lower end of the “*Socio-Economic Scale*” and were very common, *unimposing* men- who were all uneducated and probably illiterate.

So, these were twelve very ordinary men. None of them had any Stature- *politically, financially, or even religiously*. None of them held any Prominence as far as this World is concerned- yet they were used by the Lord to set up the Christian Church by *receiving, overseeing, and actually writing* the final, full, and completed Revelation of God that is today called, the “*New Testament*”! Now please turn with me to **Ephesians 2:19-22:**

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,
20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,
21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,
22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Now please look closely at the End of verse 19, where it says,

... you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household

Here the Apostle wrote that the people who have been “**built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets**” (verse 20) are NOW “**fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household**”

So, please notice two things here. First, New Covenant Believers are those who have been “**built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets**”. In other words, being built on that Foundation is what causes us to be “**fellow citizens with the saints**” and to be “**OF God's household.**”

Now back in the ancient world- whatever Name or Title was placed *first* in a line of writing- had the Pre-Eminence! So, Paul *consciously* placed the New

Covenant Apostles in front of the Old Covenant Prophets. And that means that, even though the Old Covenant Prophets were great men of God- what they taught was INFERIOR to what the New Covenant Apostles taught.

Now please let me clarify what I just said. The 39 Books of the Old Covenant or the Old Testament are fully *Inspired*. God breathed them out. And they are *Reliable; Trustworthy; and True*. They are completely *Inerrant and Infallible*. All of that is true.

But those 39 Books are also *Incomplete*. And what *completes* those 39 Books- are the 27 Books of the New Covenant or the New Testament. So, what God *began* and what He *promised* in the 39 Books- He *finished* and *fulfilled* in the 27 Books of the New Testament! And with the 66 Books- we have ALL that God has spoken to Man.

Now until the last Apostle died- people could simply ask him what the Teachings of the Apostles meant by what they said. But since all of the Apostles have died- all we have left is what they wrote. And, thanks be to God, the Language they wrote the 27 Books in- is a very *precise* Language.

So, by carefully analyzing what they wrote down; and by keeping what they wrote in its correct Context- we can understand what the Scriptures mean by what they say.

So, when the Bible says that Believers are those who are “**built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets**”- it means that we are being taught out of what the New Testament Apostles and the Old Testament Prophets wrote down in the Bible; and we believe; and we trust what they wrote down. And so, in *that* sense- those two Offices make up the Foundation of Christianity itself or the Christian Church. And that is the basis behind WHY every Believer needs ongoing, systematic Bible Study.

But, secondly, look again what Paul wrote in verse 19:
... you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household

Now the New Testament teaches that ALL Believers are saints of God. But Paul did NOT say here that we are saints- but that we are “**fellow citizens WITH the saints**”. And then he said we are also, “**OF God's household**”. So, in Context, we are two things:

1. **Fellow citizens WITH the [Old Testament] saints**
2. **OF [or belonging to] God's household [of Faith]**

... which means that ALL genuine Believers are going to inherit ALL of God's Promises- even those Promises made to the Jews in the Old Testament! And that is true because...

... there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, and is rich to all who call on him. (Romans 10:12)

Ephesians 2:20 says that our Faith exists and stands and is sustained upon the Foundation of the Apostles and Prophets. In other words- our Faith stands upon the Revelation of God that was received and written down by the Prophets in the OT and the Apostles in the New- with Jesus Christ Himself as the Chief Cornerstone that holds up the Apostles and Prophets!

Now we've already met the *first* of these men- in verse 2- a man named Simon whom Jesus also named Cephas or Peter. And you will remember that, according to **Matthew 10:2**, Peter was the *protos* or the Leader, the Chief, or the main Apostle. And that's very clear throughout the New Testament. And it took us several weeks to get through most but certainly not all of the Information about Peter because of his Prominence.

And having done that- we now come to the men who follow Peter. And the first name- still in verse 2- to follow is Andrew- Peter's natural and real brother. And next to Peter- it is almost as if Andrew had no Identity of his own. Throughout the entire New Testament- Andrew is always painted as a "background-type" person.

And just to give you a little bit of History on him- because he was Peter's brother- we know that he was born where Peter was born, and that was in the village of Bethsaida. And that is indicated to us in **John 1:44**. And later on- both Peter and Andrew had moved to Capernaum which was the Center of all the fishing Businesses that were scattered all along the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. And we know that these brothers lived together. And we also know that both Andrew and Peter operated a fishing business together there.

Now before Andrew ever met Jesus- he was a devout Jew, who was genuinely saved like everybody else has always been saved; and like ALL Jews were saved under the First or the Old Covenant. Andrew was saved BY God's Grace and THROUGH the Gift of saving Faith.

Nobody has ever been saved "BY Works. Nobody under the Old Covenant and nobody under the New. Every soul that has ever been saved has been saved the very SAME Way.

And that means that, *before* the Foundation of the world- God the Father chose to "set His Love" upon Andrew. And it also means that God the Holy Spirit

went out into the world and sovereignly CALLED Andrew to Salvation and sovereignly CAUSED Andrew to meet with Jesus- *physically* and *literally*.

But before Jesus died and rose again- lost people were saved “BY” God’s Grace and “THROUGH” the Gift of saving Faith- in God. But since the Death and Resurrection of Jesus- lost people are now saved “BY God’s Grace and “THROUGH” the Gift of saving Faith- in Jesus Personally AND in His finished Work!

Every soul MUST now come to Jesus! Nobody will be saved any longer by simply trusting in a god; or even in the one, true, and living God. They MUST now come to Jesus! And they MUST place all their Faith and Hope and Trust IN the Lord Jesus *personally* and IN His finished Work- or they will die in their Sins!

But at some point near the Beginning of the 1st Century- Andrew came into contact with John the Baptist. And Andrew believed what John was preaching and was baptized by John and became a Disciple of John. And I think it's worth looking at that initial Meeting between Jesus and Andrew- so please turn with me to **John 1:35-40**:

35 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples,

36 and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?"

39 He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ).

42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Now the “John” here in verse 35 is John the Baptist and the Apostle John wrote infallibly that Andrew was a Disciple of John the Baptist. So, Andrew had believed in what John was teaching and he had become a Disciple of John.

Now the Bible doesn’t tell us this- but according to the writings of the ancient Rabbis- those who followed John for any length of time- were baptized.

John would not allow anyone who wanted to follow him to remain unbaptized. And so, Andrew was a fervent Disciple of the Baptist.

But as soon as John the Baptist identified Jesus as being the “Lamb of God”- the Bible says that Andrew and another Disciple of John- *immediately* stopped following John and they began to follow Jesus.

And this illustrates the very strange Ministry of John the Baptist. John knew that his Ministry was to call Israel to Repentance. But he also knew that his Ministry was going to be very fervent; very fiery; very strong; and very short. And unlike any who came before or after him- John also knew that it was correct for those who followed him to leave him and follow Jesus as soon as he identified Jesus as being the Lamb of God.

Let me say this another Way- everyone of John’s Disciples, who were genuinely saved- left John and began to follow Jesus as soon as John identified Jesus as being the Lamb of God. So, all of those who *remained* with John after he had identified Jesus- were NOT saved!

Beloved, we need to always remember that it is ALWAYS about Jesus. It is about hearing about Jesus; believing *in* Him; and believing *on* Him. It is about trusting in Jesus; and being embraced by Jesus. And then it is all about striving to *obey* Jesus. And that means that Abraham and Moses and the Prophets; and Paul and Peter and all of the Apostles help to bring us to Jesus. And through what they wrote in the Bible- they are what helps us to see Jesus more clearly; love Him more fully; and obey Him from the heart. But all of them put together are NOT the Goal. The Goal is Jesus- always Jesus and no other!

And John the Baptist’s Ministry was a “one-of-a-kind” Ministry. He was anointed and sent by God the Father to help prepare people for the Advent of the incarnate God! And so, John cried to the people,

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matthew 3:2)

... and those who had already experienced the Miracle of the New Birth obeyed that Command; turned away from their Acts of Wickedness; and who put their Hope and Trust and Faith in the one, true, and living God- the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob- were immediately Justified by Faith alone!

And then those who had already experienced the Miracle of the New Birth; and who had already been forgiven of all Sin- engaged in the outward, public Affirmation of what had already happened invisibly and internally- by being baptized. And then after they were baptized- they began to follow John.

So, *part* of John’s Ministry was to *announce* that the King was coming and for them to get ready by repenting and then by trusting in God by Faith alone!

And that is very similar to what we do today. We also cry out to people so they will prepare themselves for the coming King! And they prepare themselves by first, experiencing the wondrous Gift of the New Birth. And as already born-again souls- we teach and preach that they should then voluntarily and joyously turn away from their Acts of Wickedness- just as John the Baptists taught those that followed him.

Where we differ with John is the strange part of the Baptist's Ministry. In John's Day- he *began* his Ministry- BEFORE Jesus entered into His Ministry. So, John had already begun to preach to the people and baptize them- BEFORE Jesus came to the river Jordan and met John.

But one day- the King of the whole Universe was standing right there- on the bank of the River Jordan! God the Spirit had led Jesus to come to John on that day. And when John saw Jesus- John then immediately entered into the part of his Ministry that was vastly different than what John had been doing up to that day. For, you see, John the Baptist was the one single man that God had chosen to first, *identify* and then *introduce* the incarnate God to Israel! No one else has ever had that privilege and honor- except John!

And so, the day that every Old Testament Believer had been earnestly waiting for was now here! Messiah had come! Immanuel was now here! And out of all the people on the earth at that time- John the Baptist was chosen to identify and introduce the God/Man to Israel!

But once John did that- his Ministry became completely Obsolete! Once John uttered the words, "**Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**" (John 1:29)- the God-ordained and the God-blessed Ministry of the greatest Prophet the world had ever known- was no longer needed! It had passed into Obscurity! And as soon as John uttered those words the God-ordained and the God-blessed Old Covenant- that had been in place for Centuries- was also passing into Obscurity!

And so that the End of John the Baptist's powerful and wonderful Ministry would come to pass- in God's perfect Providence and Timing- God sovereignly allowed an evil and wicked King to *imprison* John and finally have him murdered!

And so, in **John 1:37**- the Apostle infallibly wrote that as soon as Andrew and the other unknown Disciple of the Baptist heard John identify Jesus as being the "Lamb of God"- both of them stopped following John; they left John; and they began to follow Jesus. And look what John then wrote in verse 38:

And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?"

And then Jesus said to them, “**Come, and you will see**” And so, Andrew and the other Disciple...

... came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. (about four o'clock)

... now look what the Apostle John wrote next:

One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. (John 1:40)

Now what we should get out of all this is that Andrew was initially a follower or a learner or a disciple of John the Baptist. And that tells us that Andrew was listening to John the Baptist preach and was believing what John the Baptist was teaching as he cried out for Israel to repent.

So, from this we can deduce that Andrew was one of those men who was caught up in all the Messianic Expectation and all the thrill of the fact that the Fulfillment of the OT Davidic and Abrahamic Promises that had reached a fever pitch in the 1st Century. And we can say this because that was the Message of John the Baptist.

So, here we find that Andrew was a devout follower of John the Baptist, initially. And that means that Andrew was one of those among the Israelites- who was *earnestly* looking for the “*Consolation of Israel*” and was *earnestly* looking for the coming of the Messiah!

And from this we can understand that Andrew was a very devout Jew, who was genuinely saved; and who was hoping to *personally* witness the arrival of the Messiah. And so, even though Andrew was not prominent *religiously*- he was nevertheless religious to some extent. But we can see that Andrew was fully committed to the worship of the one, true, and living God- Who was revealed in Old Testament Scriptures. And so, like Simeon and Anna were when Jesus was just eight days old- Andrew was earnestly awaiting the Coming of the Messiah and the fulfillment of the Covenant Promises. And we know that because as soon as John the Baptist identifies Jesus as being the Lamb of God- verses 41&42 say:

41 He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ).

42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Now when many people read this Passage- they zero in on all that Jesus said *to* Peter and *about* Peter. And I understand that- because as soon as Peter came to

Jesus- He *immediately* renamed Simon with an Aramaic name, “*Cephas*” because Jesus spoke in Aramaic and not in either Hebrew or Greek.

But when the New Testament was actually written down- it was written in *Koine* Greek which was the language of the “common man”- as opposed to *Classical* Greek- which was the language of the educated and sophisticated people of the 1st Century.

So, in Greek- the Aramaic name, “*Cephas*” became “*Peter*” because they both mean: *a stone or a little pebble*.

And all of that about Peter is exciting and wonderful. And I taught about all of that. But today, I want to get to know Andrew- Peter’s brother. And so, let’s zero in on the first few words of verse 42 that say:

He brought him to Jesus...

Andrew brought Peter to Jesus! Andrew was used by God to bring one of the most important men who ever lived- to Jesus! So, while Peter was doing what God had called him to do- Andrew was the one who had *initially* brought Peter to Jesus in the first place!

Without Ananias- there would have never been the Apostle Paul. And without Andrew- Peter would have never met Jesus. God did this several times. Because in the Bible- there are people of seemingly little importance- yet without what they did and said- the infinitely *greater* thing would have never happened!

We have to try to keep in mind that when we read the Bible- we are NOT looking at 21st Century America. We are looking at 1st Century Israel- which has NOTHING in common with America. We can certainly *apply* the Scriptures to ourselves and our world- and that’s good. But we should never *impose* our world onto the Scriptures.

America is the Envy of the world because of our Freedoms and Liberty and our Prosperity. And even though we, periodically have wicked Leaders- people from all over the world are willing to cross the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans in a row-boat- just for the chance to get here.

But America is Prosperous because of Competition. Every Business is trying to out-sell; out-market; and out-do the others. Businesses all over this land are trying their best to sell you something that you probably don’t need and can’t use. So, we are a very *competitive* Culture. And so, people are getting up earlier; staying up later; and working hard all day- so they can keep up with the elusive Myth called, “Success”. And that leads many people to enter into the worlds of Jealousy; Envy; Strife; Covetousness; and Pride- things the Bible says are Sins.

But 1st Century Israel wasn't like that. It was primarily an Agrarian Culture that had no Concept of things like Capitalism or free-trade; or the hard charging Competition to Win at all costs. So, while it is true that Andrew always lived in Peter's shadow- we should NOT get from that- that Andrew was jealous or envious of Peter. He wasn't. Andrew labored for Jesus in the Lane God had given him.

Andrew was very privileged to have met Jesus on the very day when Jesus was announced as being the Messiah by John the Baptist. And when Jesus first calls Disciples to Himself- when He sovereignly pulled them to Himself for Purposes that unfold later- Andrew is also among the first two people called. And he is also in the most intimate group- the four closest followers- along with Peter, James and John. So, Andrew is greatly blessed.

But Andrew is a background kind of guy. He is a very devout Jew- who was personally looking for the Messiah; and he was wanting to know and serve the one, true, and living God. And he was wanting to fully embrace the Lamb of God- the Lord Jesus Christ. And he had the incredible Privilege- along with Peter- of spending a day, or at least a portion of a day with Jesus in personal Fellowship. So, Andrew had a truly remarkable Life.

We need to be aware that in many, many ways- our modern American Culture is great; and it is wonderful; and it is a tremendous blessing from God. But we also have to understand that our modern American Culture can be a great Hindrance when it comes to comprehending the God of the Bible- because the one true living God does *not* operate like an American; and He does *not* have as His main Priorities- Freedom; Liberty; and Equality among all people.

God's Main Objective is that He is known and enjoyed forever. God's main Objective is that He is glorified; and that He is worshipped; and adored; and honored; and feared; and loved; and obeyed. The God, Who is revealed in Scripture, does NOT treat people equally. He never has. And He does *not* issue Mercy equally. And God does *not* perform Miracles; or Healings; or Deliverances equally among the sons of men. He never has and He never will.

But that is not to say that God is arbitrary or that He is haphazard or capricious or that He is *unjust*- He isn't. The Bible says that God is Good. But God is also Holy- meaning that He is Separate and Distinct and Different from us and therefore, He doesn't think like we do; and He doesn't act like we do; and He doesn't reason like we do.

Speaking for God Himself- the golden tongued prophet Isaiah said this in **Isaiah 55:8&9:**

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.

9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

We also have to remember, dear friends, that we are “Fallen Creatures” and that God is high and lifted up. And our God is exalted in the Heavens- so His Mind is perfect- while ours is corrupted. God’s Ways are true- while ours are not. God’s Logic is sound- while ours is not. And God’s Ability to see the Past, Present, and Future all at once- overshadows our finite and limited Understanding of things that are happening all around us.

We must be reminded that God is above- and we are below; that God is holy- and we are not; that God is Good- and we are evil; that God is Wise- and we are foolish; and that God Righteous- and we are Unrighteous. We need to be periodically reminded that Salvation was God’s idea; as was Marriage; and even all of Life itself. And so, God alone is the sole Arbiter of what is Right and Wrong; and what is Holy and Profane; and what is Sin and what is Righteousness.

We don’t tell God that we are Obedient. God tells us that- or He tells us that we are Disobedient. In other words- God is the One, Who establishes what is pleasing to Himself and what is *not* pleasing. And so, because that is true- Worship is not what *we* make it out to be. Worship has already been defined for us. And if we are to worship the one, true, and living God correctly- we must worship Him in the prescribed Manner in which He has told us to worship Him- or else He does not receive our Worship at all.

And if God does not receive our Worship- we become like Cain, who tried to worship God in his own Way; according to the dictates of his own heart. And the Bible says that God *rejected* Cain’s Worship and He also rejected Cain- *personally*.

So, we must understand that God is absolutely Sovereign and therefore, the Issuance of His Mercy is totally within God’s Own Prerogative- which is why both Moses in the OT and the Apostle Paul in the New said that God issues Mercy to whom He will issue Mercy. And so, God delivers; and heals; and He blesses those whom it pleases Him to do so.

So, if all that Andrew ever did was to bring Peter to Jesus- Andrew’s entire Life would have been wonderful. And he would have been blessed by God.

We must remember that the main Purpose of John the Baptist being alive; and him being given to Zacharias and Elizabeth in their old age; and having the angel come; and all the miracles that surrounded John the Baptist’s birth- the main purpose for his entire Existence was to do nothing else but to fulfill the OT Promises of the Forerunner of the Messiah; and for him to publicly point out Jesus as being the Lamb of God. And as soon as he did that- John quickly fades from the scene and is soon after captured and martyred.

But he did what God had called him to do and Jesus called him the greatest Prophet born of woman.

So, don't get your head all puffed up about the great and mighty and earthshaking things that somebody told you that you're supposed to do. Most of that simply feeds into our fallen Pride anyway as it makes us feel powerful and important. The Bible teaches that instead of you being and doing powerful and great things; instead of you bringing forth open shows of Glory- God simply wants us to be faithful over the *little* things- the *small* things- the *few* things; the seemingly *insignificant* things- while He alone rules over the great and mighty things.

God want you to be faithful- not change the world. God wants husbands to love their wives. God wants wives to submit to the Authority of their husbands. God wants children to obey their Parents. God wants you to pay your bills on time; and to keep your Promises; and to not let the sun go down on your Wrath. God wants you to confess your Sins; and repent; and turn from them when He graces you with the vision to see them.

And God wants you to *honor* and *love* and *obey* and *fear* Him. And God wants you to *know* Him. And God wants you to *enjoy* Him forever. That is what "*being spiritual*" means. That is what "*walking in the Spirit*" looks like- when you struggle *against* the Lusts of your Flesh to live your daily Lives in humble and joyful Submission to the Word of God!

So don't grieve over Andrew and think that he lived his entire Life was as a frustrated and jealous brother to Peter who held the spotlight. He didn't. Andrew being like he was- is the Sovereignty of God at work- choosing both Peter and Andrew as *unworthy* and *unqualified* Sinners; and in using one differently than the other- all to the Glory of God!

Remember- Andrew was a *wicked* and *unworthy* Sinner- just as Peter was. And so, *anything* that God does *for* and *through* and *in* Andrew is Mercy; and something that Andrew *doesn't* deserve; and something that he *isn't* entitled to. And Andrew obviously understood that. And he was okay with that.

So, Andrew is the "*missionary Apostle*". He brings people to Jesus Christ. And for Andrew- missionary Work began where missionary Work always begins- at home! Having found the Messiah- the *first* thing that Andrew does is he went to get his own brother to bring him to Jesus! So, those, who are looking to bring someone to Christ, need to look where Andrew looked first- at home.

In the 6th Chapter of **John**- the Disciples have a terrible Dilemma. There's a huge crowd- thousands and thousands of people gathered around Jesus- hearing Him speak. And the Bible says that there were at least five thousand men- which if every man was married- there was another five thousand women; and who knows- maybe upwards of two- five thousand children as well so you might very well have

a crowd here of about 12- 15,000 people. And they're all hungry. And **John 6:5-14** says-

5 Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?"

6 This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.

7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little."

8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him,

9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?"

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

11 Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted.

12 When they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost."

13 So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

14 Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

So, you have three people here- Philip, Andrew and Jesus- all looking at this huge crowd of hungry people. And, evidently, Philip was either an accountant or a very intelligent rational and logical man and he said in verse 7,

..."Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.

... that's two hundred days Wages at that time Israel!

So, Philip said, two hundred days Wages worth of bread is not sufficient for everyone to receive just a little- much less actually get full. In other words- Philip was simply overwhelmed by it all. But now look again at verses 8&9:

**8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him,
9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?"**

So, right after Philip talks about how terrible things are and how impossible their Situation is- Andrew begins to explore a possible Solution. And Andrew has already made connections in the crowd. And I'm sure that most of the Apostles were just seeing the huge sea of Humanity- while Andrew was seeing the people.

So, it was in the heart of Andrew to make contact with somebody. And in the process of mingling with the people- he was always wanting to bring people to Jesus. And in that effort- he came across a boy.

And Andrew brought the boy out of this massive crowd to Jesus. And Andrew says, *"I found a boy with five barley loaves and two fish- but I don't really know how that plays in with a large crowd like this."*

Now barley loaves back then were little biscuits. And the fish was a sort of pickled fish or perhaps even dried fish that you just put on a biscuit and it could be more like fish and crackers. And here is Andrew bringing somebody to Jesus that he believes could be useful. And Andrew did that- because he was always finding individuals; always mingling with the people; never seemingly caught away with the crowd- but able to find individuals in the crowd.

And he brings him to Jesus- and the boy and his basket of food is *exactly* what Jesus needs. And from that little boy's lunch that his mother had prepared that morning- Jesus fed tens of thousands of people in one of his greatest Miracles ever recorded.

The other Occasion that John mentioned Andrew- is in **John 12** which was the time of the Passover in Israel. And as you know- the Passover time focused on Jerusalem. And so, Jesus is coming up to Jerusalem to keep the Passover. And the Bible says that there were certain Gentiles, Greeks, going up to worship at the Passover too.

And four of them came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, same hometown as Andrew and Peter. "And in **John 12:21** they began to ask him, saying, *"Sir, we would see Jesus. We want to see Jesus."*

Now Philip *could* have said, *"Sure, come with me. I know Him personally and I'll take you there."* But he didn't say that. What did Philip do? The Bible says in **John 12:22** that Philip came and told who? He told Andrew. And Andrew brought them to Jesus. So even in Philip's mind- Andrew was the one who brought people to Jesus! And so, together, they both went to Jesus and told Him that these people wanted to see Him.

And that is about all there is about Andrew. Andrew is more a Silhouette than a Portrait. But in these Incidences in **John**- we do learn *some* things about Andrew. He was very devout; he was a Missionary; and he brought people to Jesus! And we know that he had no prejudice because he even brought dirty pagan Gentiles to Jesus.

Andrew would have appreciated the Sentiment of Christina Rossetti (5 December 1830-29 December 1894), who wrote a beautiful poem that says,

Give me the lowest place,
Not that I dare ask for that lowest place,
But Thou hast died that I might live
And share Thy glory by Thy side,
So give me the lowest place,
Or if for me that lowest place is too high,
Make one more low
Where I may sit and see my God
And love Thee so.¹

... and that was Andrew.

He was never really part of the three *closest* Intimates- who were always right there on the Edge- but he was always Peter's brother. And he always loved Jesus. So, did he feel slighted? Not at all. Jesus saved his soul; and He was chosen by God. Andrew was so wonderfully blessed- above almost all the people in the world to personally hear with his own ears that this Man; this Jesus was the Lamb of God. And Andrew was one of those rare people who are so endowed with Grace that they don't mind being in the Shadows- those kinds of people that all of us who lead depend so much on.

Andrew was a part of the self-forgetting souls- who are content to occupy a small sphere; and who are free from Self-seeking Ambition.

The Scottish theologian, Donald Macleod (24 November 1940- 21 May, 2023), said this about the Apostle Andrew,

"Gathering together the traces of character found in Scripture, we have neither the writer of an epistle, nor the founder of a church, nor a leading figure in the apostolic age. But Andrew is simply an intimate disciple of Jesus Christ, ever anxious that others should know the Fountain of spiritual joy and share the blessing he so highly prized, a man of moderate endowment, scarcely redeemed his early promise, simple minded, sympathetic, without either dramatic power or heroic spirit, yet with that

¹ "The Lowest Place" Christina Rossetti; approximately 1842. Rossetti was a very devout member of the Church of England and yet suffered much in her Life. She died in great pain and anguish of breast cancer yet praised God for the "*privilege of knowing and loving You*".

clinging confidence in Christ that brought him into the inner circle of the Twelve, a man of deep religious faith with little power or expression at first. Better suited for the quiet walks of life than the stirring thoroughfares. Truly Andrew is the Apostle of a very blessed life.”

... but Church History tells us that Andrew did a very dangerous thing.

After the Resurrection of Jesus- Andrew brought the wife of a provincial Governor- a provincial Roman Governor- to Jesus- and she was wondrously saved. But that *infuriated* her husband so, he *demande*d that his wife *recant* her Devotion to Jesus- and she *refused*. And in his fury at his Wife’s Salvation- that wicked Governor had Andrew crucified. And History tells us that this pagan Roman had this kind and gentle Apostle crucified on an X-shaped Cross.

And today, whenever you see an X-shaped Cross- it is called, the “*St. Andrew's Cross*”- because Andrew was suspended on that Cross in *excruciating* Agony for two long days. But instead of asking for Mercy from the pagans- Andrew preached the Gospel of Salvation to all who passed by for as long as he could speak. Because Andrew was always bringing people to Jesus.

Amen. Let’s pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.