

## **Be an Andrew to the Lost**

John 1:40-42

*Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).*

### **Intro Story**

In 1934, Albert McMakin, a 24-year-old farmer became a Christian. He was so full of enthusiasm that he filled a truck with people and took them to a meeting to hear about Jesus. There was a good-looking farmer's son whom he was especially keen to get to a meeting, but this man was hard to persuade – he was too busy falling in and out of love with different girls. He did not seem to be attracted to Christianity.

Eventually, Albert McMakin managed to persuade him to attend the meeting by asking him to drive his truck. When they arrived, Albert's guest driver decided to go in and was "spellbound" and began to have thoughts that he had never known before. He went back night after night until one night he went forward and gave his life to Jesus Christ.

Since then, the young truck driver has spoken to millions of people about Christ during his lifetime and he went on to become a spiritual advisor to nine US Presidents. The young truck driver was Billy Graham. (Source: *"Questions of Life – Nicky Gumbel" p.193-194*)

We are not all called to be Billy Grahams but we can all, in our own quiet way be Albert McMakins. We all have opportunities to talk about Christ with our friends.

### **Come and See**

Our task as believers is to invite people to, "*Come and see*" and encourage them to meet Christ. Let's face it however, when it comes to witnessing two things tend to mark us out.

- 1/ The first is that we all desire to see our friends and relatives come to know Christ.
- 2/ However the second thing about many of us is that we are at a loss about how we should speak of Christ to our friends and relatives. It's not that we don't want to share our faith, and it's not that we don't have a concern, because we do care. We're just not sure how to go about it.

There used to be a bumper sticker on cars which read, "*Carpenter from Nazareth seeks joiners*". The great thing is that Jesus still seeks for those to join Him by giving their lives to Him. But many Christians are shying away from witnessing and bringing others to Christ.

Paul Harvey, American radio host, once said, "*Too many Christians are no longer fishers of men but keepers of the aquarium.*"

Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, once shared a sad statistic. He said, "*Millions of surveys which we have helped to take around the world indicate that approximately 98 percent of the Christians do not regularly introduce others to the Saviour.*"

It seems Christians are at a loss to witness and perhaps many are either scared or uncomfortable in sharing their faith. Others may feel inadequate or overwhelmed. Whatever the reason we need to do something about it.

I like the story of **Andrew**, the disciple of Jesus and how he went about introducing people to Christ. The New Testament records that Andrew was the son of Jonah and the brother of the Apostle Peter. He was born in Bethsaida of Galilee and a fisherman by trade. (John 1: 44).

We first read about Andrew in John's Gospel where he is described as originally having been a disciple of John the Baptist. In Matthew's Gospel Andrew is recorded as being one of the first disciples of Christ (Matt. 4:18).

### **Andrew's Encounter with Christ**

When Andrew was following John the Baptist he heard John point to Jesus saying: "*Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world.*"

Intrigued and interested, Andrew followed Jesus and was invited to stay.

His first meeting with Christ was so memorable for he even remembered the time it happened—it was about the tenth hour—an hour of decision, an hour of opportunity, and an hour that was to change his life.

### **Andrew introduces his brother Peter to Christ**

With his experience with Christ, Andrew could think of only one thing—he must share the good news. And he could only think of one person—his brother, Peter.

In Andrew we see someone who is bursting with news. His message was simple, "*We have found the Messiah*". And the first person he shared that news with was his older brother Peter. But they were brothers who were not alike.

### **Difference between Andrew and Peter**

Andrew was living under the shadow of his brother Peter.

Every time he is mentioned in the Bible, he is always identified as Simon Peter's brother.

Andrew was the first disciple to follow Jesus, yet he is never mentioned first in any list of the twelve disciples. Peter is always first, Andrew is second.

- Peter was impetuous ... Andrew was quiet and reserved.
- Peter sought the limelight ... Andrew was happy to keep himself in the background.
- Peter was the born leader ... Andrew was the follower and helper.

### **It shows all over your face**

Andrew went to his brother Peter and spoke to him with a joy in his voice and fervor in his soul. And when you have joy and fervor like that, it shows.

### Illustration

There were some gold miners digging for gold. One of them noticed an unusual stone and he cracked it open and inside it was filled with gold, soon they were finding many stones and suddenly it dawned on them. They had hit the jackpot, "We're rich!" Now they needed to go back in to town for more supplies but they decided they would not tell anybody about this. When in town neither breathed a word about their discovery, yet, as they left town a group began to follow them. The group said, "We know that you have found gold". "How do you know? Who told you?" The group said, "Nobody! It shows on your faces!"

Peter may have been skeptical but he couldn't deny that something was different – it was written all over Andrew's face. Peter is challenged by Andrew's conviction. As Andrew shares about his encounter with Jesus we realize he did not have full knowledge about the life, death, resurrection and work of Jesus as Messiah. But Andrew simply trusted Jesus and followed Him. After Andrew decided to follow Christ he immediately went to tell Peter and introduced him to Jesus.

### **Let Your Light Shine (Candle Object Lesson)**

This points us to another truth we already know, but which might need to be reprioritized. We see the point by asking, “When does a candle begin to shine?” When it’s already half burned up? Of course not. A candle begins to shine as soon as it is lit. Jesus says, “*Let your light shine*”. Jesus says, “*Go make disciples*”.

We don’t start shining half way through our Christian life ... we start shining from the very moment that we come to Christ. Christians are to let their light shine all the time.

### **Andrew, an Introducer**

We may not be prepared or have the ability to communicate about Jesus in the fullest possible way – but we know Jesus as our Saviour. We know about forgiveness by grace because of what Jesus has done. And that qualifies us. That doesn’t mean we all have to become up-front evangelists. After all, who is Andrew? Even though Andrew is one of the first disciples he doesn’t end up being the team spokesman. Andrew is not a Simon Peter. Andrew is an “introducer”. He’s not an evangelist or great leader. He just introduces people to Jesus. That’s all and it’s enough.

There are many Christians who feel that they do not know enough about Jesus and His work. These same people are afraid to share their faith because they might come across people who ask questions which they cannot answer. But Jesus is calling on all of us to be who we are – and when we are in Christ we are disciples who are called to make other disciples. We are disciples who recognize that sometimes it is the simple message spoken in love that is the most powerful, especially when it is spoken to people who know us well enough to know the words are sincere and real for us.

Andrew is happy to do the work, without the weight of leadership. Andrew was not distracted by the fact that Peter ended up in charge. Andrew was just content to introduce people to Christ. He made disciples in his own special way ... he did it by bringing people to Jesus.

### **Andrew Introduces a Boy to Christ (John 6:8-9)**

We know this is the case because we see Andrew in action again in John 6:9. In the context crowds have been following Jesus. Jesus wants to feed the crowd of 5,000, so He tests the disciples. In the end it is Andrew who comes through – well sort of. Andrew finds a boy and introduces him to Christ. He says, “*Here is a boy with five small barley loaves, and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?*”

Andrew met this boy and brought him to Jesus. Five barley loaves and two fish, less than most of us would take to a picnic. Andrew himself wasn’t quite sure how that would help, but it was all the food he could find and so he brought the boy and his lunch basket to Jesus, and he knew that Jesus somehow would do the rest.

He said, “Jesus, here’s Johnny. Can I introduce you to him? Oh, and by the way, Johnny has his lunch”. From that time the young boy’s life was changed forever. He probably went home that day saying, “I was talking to Jesus and Jesus used my lunch to feed 5,000 people”.

It’s an amazing thing when someone who thinks they are nobody all of a sudden realizes they matter to God. Andrew didn’t find the elitists in the group, he found a little boy and from there Jesus took over.

## Conclusion

That's what Andrew did. He brought his brother to Jesus, and he brought his new little friend to Jesus and then Andrew stood back to allow Jesus to do the rest. You don't have to be the up-front person to introduce people to Jesus. You don't have to have all the answers. You don't even have to see people converted. But when you are a disciple you understand that introducing people to Jesus is a lifestyle that must become your priority as a believer.

### Story of Ed Kimball

I want to share with you a powerful story. The story begins in 1854, when a believer by the name of Edward Kimball, who taught a Sunday school class, went to visit a 17-year-old boy from his class. The boy was working in a shoe shop in Detroit. The boy did not know Christ and seemed to have little interest in church. So Kimball hesitantly set out to talk with the boy and to let him know that he was concerned about him, and that he needed Christ.

In the basement of that shoe store that day the boy was led to Christ. The 17-year-old boy's name was D. L. Moody. We now know that Moody went on to become one of the greatest evangelists in the world, and he shared the gospel with millions of people throughout the world in the 1800's.

However, Kimball's spiritual chain of events were just beginning to take place. The rest of the story goes like this:

- Sunday School teacher **Edward Kimball** lead **Dwight L. Moody** to Christ;
- **J. Wilbur Chapman** attended a Dwight L. Moody evangelistic meeting in Chicago in the 1870's and received personal counseling and an assurance of his salvation from Mr. Moody. He later became a friend and coworker of Mr. Moody, hiring a former baseball star named **Billy Sunday** as an advance man for him;
- Billy Sunday held an evangelistic campaign in Charlotte in 1924 and a men's prayer and fellowship group, known as the Charlotte Businessmen's Club, grew out of those meetings. It was this group that invited **Mordecai Ham** to Charlotte to hold evangelistic meetings in 1934;
- Mordecai Ham preached the Gospel where a 16 year-old young man known as **Billy Graham** went forward and received Christ in his life

It's amazing that one can trace Billy Graham's ministry back to that shoe store basement. But that is God, and that's how He works. What we do not know, however, is what would have happened if Edward Kimball had not walked into that shoe store.

The most amazing part of the story is that it all began with a simple person. Kimball was a Sunday school teacher, not a pastor, and not a great theologian in his day. Every Christian has a part in introducing people to Christ. After all, we may never be the next Billy Graham, but we may end up being the next Edward Kimball.

Be an Andrew and start praying for those who need Christ and introduce them to Christ.

