



MEN OF VALOR

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ANDREW, THE FIRST TO BRING PEOPLE TO JESUS

Andrew, a Young Fisherman from Bethsaida, had a great yearning for Truth and Change in himself and in the World around him! Leaving the fishing nets at times, he went out to hear a man named John the Baptist. John was from a Priestly Family, a Man Inspired by the Holy God to herald the Coming of the Long Awaited **Savior and Christ**. A Prophet in the wilderness, with a Voice so mighty, he drew people from all over, to Repentance and Baptism, in Preparation for Salvation from their Sin.

Andrew was drawn to this **Prophet** of Hope, and Longed for this **Coming Savior** he Proclaimed. Though many people took offense with John, because of the Words of Truth., **Andrew** knew John's Truth came from **The Holy God**, and he listened closely. So **Andrew** became a follower of John the Baptist!

He was with John the Baptist on the very day that **Jesus Christ** came back from His 40 days in the Wilderness of Temptation and testing by the devil. John 1:29 The next day John saw **Jesus** coming toward him, and said, "**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**"³⁰This is **He** of whom I said, 'After me comes **a Man** who is preferred before me, for **He was before me.**'³¹I did not know **Him**; **but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.**" -(NKJV)

³²And **John** bore witness, saying, "**I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.**"³³I did not know **Him**, but **He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'**"³⁴And I have seen and testified that this is **the Son of God.**"

³⁵Again, the next day, **John stood with two of his disciples.**"³⁶And looking at **Jesus as He** walked, he said, "**Behold the Lamb of God!**"

³⁷**The two disciples (Andrew & young John) heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.**"³⁸Then **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?"⁴⁰ **One** of the **two** who heard John the Baptist *speak*, and followed **Him**, was **Andrew**, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹**He first found his own brother Simon,** and said to him, "**We have found the Messiah**" (which is translated, **the Christ**).

⁴²**And he brought him to Jesus.** Later **Jesus** would Call both **Andrew** and his brother Simon Peter to be "**Fishers of Men.**" They were among the **first** of **12 Disciples/Apostles** Called.



ANDREW, CALLED BY THE SON OF GOD

The Very Son of God would start His Ministry by choosing 4 fishermen: Go to Matthew 4:18 And **Jesus**, walking by the Sea of Galilee,



saw **two brothers**, Simon called Peter, and **Andrew** his brother, **casting a net into the sea**; for they were **fishermen**.¹⁹ Then **He** said to them,

“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”²⁰ They immediately left *their* nets and followed **Him**.

21 Going on from there, **He** saw **two other brothers**, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, **in the boat** with Zebedee their father, **mending their nets**. **He called** them,²² and immediately they left the boat and their father, and fol-

lowed **Him**.

²³ And **Jesus** went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching **the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. ²⁴ Then **His fame** went throughout all Syria; and they brought to **Him** all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and **He healed** them. ²⁵ **Great multitudes followed Him**—from Galilee, and *from* Decapolis (the 10 cities, Gardara, Gerasa, Dion, Damascus, Canatha, Hippos, Pella, Philadelphia (modern Amman, Jordan) Raphana and Scythopolis (Beth-shan, Israel), Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. For **God So Loved the world**, He Sent **His Son** to ‘fish’ for mankind, and **Christ** called up **His** ‘Fishermen’!

ANDREW, CONNECTING PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

Andrew had a ‘gift’ for connecting people and resources. He was selfless in his concern for others. As the multitudes followed **Jesus** and **His** Disciples, ONE time they needed to feed 5000 men (plus their women and children, who had been following?).

Now, this **fisherman** surely knew how much **fish and bread** 5000 men could eat. But he put great faith in **Jesus** and in **His Saving power**. **Andrew** was always pointing people to **GOD** and **His Christ**! John 6:8 **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 small fish, but what are they among so many?”

¹⁰ Then **Jesus** said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the **men** sat down, in number about five thousand. ¹¹ And **Jesus** took the loaves, and when **He** had given thanks **He** distributed *them* to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.¹² So when they were

filled, **He** said to **His** disciples, **“Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.”**
¹³ Therefore they gathered *them* up, and **filled twelve baskets** with the **fragments of the five barley loaves** which were left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ Then those men, when they had seen the sign that **Jesus** did, said, **“This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”**

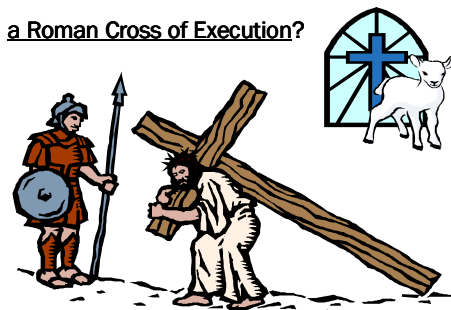


ANDREW AND JESUS CHRIST, THE LAMB OF GOD

Andrew was the first disciple to hear of **JESUS CHRIST’S UNIQUE ROLE AS THE LAMB OF GOD, WHO TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD!** Perhaps that knowledge is what endeared him to this **Prophet** that

Moses Promised would come after him, to Deliver His People Israel! Did he understand what John meant when he called **Jesus** “the Lamb of GOD” And how would **Jesus** take away the sins of the world. That sounded like a mighty fantastic feat, even for a **Son of GOD..** Did he already know **this Lamb would suffer on**

a Roman Cross of Execution?



ANDREW MAY HAVE TAKEN THE GOSPEL TO SCYTHIA (SOUTHERN RUSSIA)

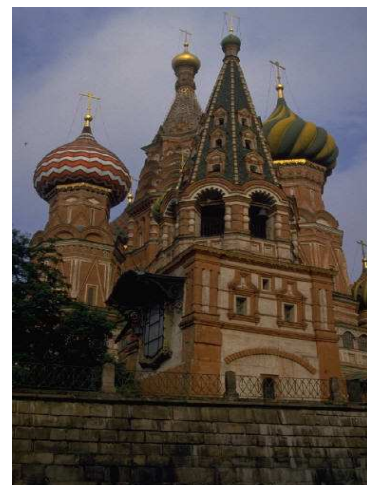
Andrew loved to **connect people with each other and with God through Jesus Christ**. He made an impact on peoples lives, one by one. He followed **Jesus** closely and helpfully. He listened carefully to Jesus last instructions (Mark 16:15): **“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.** ¹⁶He who believes and is baptized will be

saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

I believe **Andrew** reached some of the coldest and remotest parts of the known world in his day! **Christ** did not leave out

any part of the world, from receiving the good news of **His Gospel!**

He came from Heaven down to Earth, so **His** disciples could be Equipped and Inspired to spread this Gospel across the Nations.



ANDREW HELPS THE GREEKS

The Religious Rulers were loosing ground in their opposition to **The Christ!** When **the Greeks wanted to meet Jesus**, they asked Phillip, and he told **Andrew!** Go with me to John 20:19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, **the world has gone after Him!**”

²⁰Now there were **certain Greeks** among those who came up to worship at the feast.

²¹Then they came to Phillip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, “Sir, we wish to **see Jesus.**”



²²Phillip came and told **Andrew**, and in turn **Andrew and Philip told Jesus.**

²³But **Jesus** answered them, saying, **“The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.** ²⁴**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.** ²⁵**He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.** -(NKJV Bible)

Now jump ahead in the life of **Andrew** to 70AD! He is an Apostle of Christ’s in Pataras, Greece. Here he Preaches Christ to the Greeks, and among the Converts is Maximilla, the wife of Roman Governor **Aegaeas**, who becomes enraged over **his wife’s Conversion to Christ**, by **Andrew**, and he threatens him with death by crucifixion. **To this threat Andrew replies, “Had I feared the death of the Cross, I should not have Preached the majesty and gloriousness of Christ.”** the Governor tried everything he could to break Andrew away **from his Faith in The Christ**, including scourging and torture. Even the judge pleaded with Andrew not to give up his life for **his Faith**. Unwilling to abandon **Christ**, he was tied to an **“X”** shaped cross to die a slow and painful death.



Perhaps Andrew was Martyred in a Greek Amphitheater like this one, before a cloud of witnesses, who heard him **Teach Christ for 3 days** from An **“X”** Cross of Crucifixion, before he gave up his Spirit!

THE ROAD TO FREEDOM FROM SINS:

John 8:31 Then **Jesus** said to those Jews who believed **Him**, “If you abide in **My word**, you are **My disciples** indeed. ³²And you shall **know the truth**, and **the truth shall make you free.**”
“Most assuredly, **I** say to you, **whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.**
35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, **but a Son abides forever.** 36 **Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**
“Most assuredly, **I** say to you, before **Abraham was, I AM.**” -Jesus (NKJV).



ANDREW, AND “THE DESIRE” OF ALL NATIONS

Now, if you desperately desire something, or in this case Some **One**, and that Some **One** Comes to your side and heart, are you going to betray that **ONE**. Or will you **cling with your whole heart to that One?**

Jesus, took an interest in **Andrew**, and his meekness and willingness to learn, and invited him into **His Company** as the first of **His Disciples**. He was with **Jesus** attending the Wedding at Cana, and saw **Jesus** first Miracle. **What was it about Andrew**, that **Jesus** should select him for so Great a Mission at **His** side?

Christ would be with him to the end of the Age and be **his Desire!**

Even the Cross of his Crucifixion did not frighten **Andrew**. **It is said that when he came near his cross he spoke these words, “O beloved cross! I have greatly longed for thee. I rejoice to see you erected here. I come to thee with a peaceful conscience and with cheerfulness, desiring that I, who am a disciple of Him who hung on the cross, may also be crucified. The nearer I come to the cross, the nearer I come to God; and the farther I am from the cross, the farther I am from God.”** Voices of the Martyrs —FOXÉ. (I highly recommend this book!) . “Only heaven will reveal the thousands upon thousands of lives that were eventually transformed by Andrew’s quiet and persistent work behind the scenes, touching one life at a time.” —FOXÉ.

CHRIST IS PREACHED, TOO SO MANY NATIONS!

JESUS CHRIST, THE FAITHFUL WITNESS, HAS BEEN ATTESTED TO IN MANY NATIONS: HAD THE RULERS OF THE NATIONS **RECEIVED**, AND NOT REJECTED **THE CHRIST**, THEY WOULD BE LIGHT YEARS AHEAD IN THE REALM OF SPIRITUAL ILLUMINATION, INSTEAD OF STILL BEING IMPRISONED IN THEIR SINS.

WHEN YOU SEE **BELLS**, **DO YOU THINK OF FREEDOM?** NOW ASK YOURSELF, WHAT IMPRISONS MAN MOST DURING HIS LIFE IN THIS WORLD? THE MORE LIBERTY HE RECEIVES FROM GOVERNING POWERS, THE MORE HE BECOMES ENSLAVED TO SIN AND FILLS UP THE PRISONS OF THE LANDS. WE EVEN SEE THIS IN THE U.S., THE MORE LIBERATED MAN AND WOMAN BECOMES, THE MORE THEY SINK DOWN INTO BONDAGE OF EVERY IMAGINABLE KIND.

COULD IT BE THAT **JESUS CHRIST, THE VERY SON OF GOD**, CAME TO BE **THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD FOR A REASON**. COULD IT BE THAT SIN IS THE ROOT PROBLEM, FROM AS FAR BACK IN EARLY HISTORY, AS THE GARDEN OF EDEN? COULD IT BE THAT “**FORGIVENESS**” IS MANKINDS GREATEST NEED? COULD IT BE THAT THE CROSS OF **CHRIST** CAN FREE MAN FROM HIMSELF AND HIS SIN? YES, THE CROSS IS THE ROAD TO FREEDOM FROM THE FLESH AND IT’S SIN. **TO REACH FOR THE CHRIST WHO TOOK OUR SIN AND DIED ON A CROSS, WAS BURIED, ROSE TO LIFE AND ASCENDED BACK TO HEAVEN, IS FREEDOM TO OUR VERY SOUL!**



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