

## Andrew: Never Underestimate Small Things and Small People

**(12) In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. (13) And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: (14) Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, (15) and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, (16) and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. (Luke 6:12-16)**

1. Jesus spending the night in prayer and then choosing 12 ordinary men to train for leadership seemed so small in the eyes of those of His day. What would these normal guys be able to do? This is not your typical "Dream Team." Why would Jesus choose you and me? Are you open to His training?
2. Andrew is known as being the brother of Simon Peter. The gifts and leadership of Simon Peter overshadowed Andrew in many ways. But this did not bother Andrew. He was OK with not having the leading role, with serving in the background, and in the small things. What is your calling? Are you ok with not having the leading role? Are you OK with serving in the background? Are you OK with apparently small things? Never underestimate small things. Keep growing in faithfulness.

**(35) The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, (36) and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (37) The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. (38) Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which 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 Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. (41) He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which 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 means Peter). (Jn. 1:35-42)**

1. John the baptist led Andrew to Jesus so that his sins could be forgiven through Jesus' death in his place (substitutionary atonement).
2. Andrew was a follower of Jesus, a disciple of Jesus, a seeker of Jesus, and he wanted to see Jesus and be with Jesus. How about you?
3. Andrew led Simon Peter, his brother, to Jesus. Who in your family are you pointing to Jesus? Does your family trust you? If not, why not? Have can you rebuild trust if it has been broken?
4. Andrew was a man that loved leading individual people to Jesus. He loved bringing them to Christ. How are you helping to lead individuals to Jesus? How are you bringing them to Christ? Are you regularly inviting people to hear the gospel? Are you praying for and working toward sharing the gospel with others? What are some ways you can get people to Christ and to hear about Him regularly?

**(18) While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. (19) And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (20) Immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Matt. 4:18-20)**

1. Jesus called Andrew to full-time vocational ministry, to full time training and preparation. Jesus made Andrew of fisher of men and women.
2. Would you be willing to leave everything behind if Jesus called you to full-time vocational ministry? He does not call everyone to this, but He does some. Are you listening and open?

**(1) After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. (2) And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. (3) Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. (4) Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. (5) Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" (6) He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. (7) Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." (8) One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, (9) "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" (10) Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. (11) Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. (12) And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." (13) So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. (14) When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" (15) Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself. (Jn. 6:1-15)**

1. Andrew was a man that passed the tests that Jesus gave. Andrew knew that Jesus could use small things for big purposes. Andrew knew that Jesus has the power and authority to do whatever He wants with what we bring Him. Andrew was a man of faith. He knew what Jesus could do. Andrew knew that Jesus leads His people into green pastures and provides for them all they need.
2. Andrew knew that no gift was too small for God to use because He is so big.

**(20) Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. (21) So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." (22) Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. (23) And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (25) Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (26) If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (Jn. 12:20-26)**

1. Andrew knew that Jesus loved the nations, and he himself was not filled with racial and ethnic pride and animosity. He knew that Jesus came for Greeks and the Jews, the Asians and the Africans, the Europeans and the Latin Americans, the American's and the Australians. He was a man without prejudice.
2. Andrew is the one that personally brings these Greeks to Jesus.
3. All it takes is one small grain of wheat to eventually bring forth a harvest of wheat in a field. Don't underestimate small things.
4. Our one small life was created to worship, love, serve, and live fully for the one true God and His Son Jesus Christ.

**(35) And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." (Mark 9:35)**

1. Andrew understood that if you really want to win, if you really want to be in first place, then you must sacrificially love Jesus, His people, and the world (all).

**(1) Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, (2) and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. (3) And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. (4) For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." (Luke 21:1-4)**

1. Don't underestimate how God will and is using what you think is a small offering. Andrew knew that it was not the size of the offering, but the size of your God.

**(27) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (28) God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, (29) so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. (1Cor 1:27-29)**

1. All glory, praise, honor, worship, love, and devotion should go to Christ alone. Andrew did not care if he got the credit on earth

#### Additional Notes:

1. Andrew is known by some as the apostle of small things. The Bible shows that God often turned history using a few people, or even an individual, to accomplish His purposes. The name Andrew means, "manly."
2. He was the first of the 12 to follow Jesus and become His disciple. He was the first of the 12 to be called by Christ. He had a close relationship with Jesus.
3. He lived in the shadow of his better known and more dominant brother Simon Peter. His father was John (Jonah).
4. Andrew was known for his eagerness to follow Jesus and his zeal for introducing people to Jesus. Andrew was a people person, he loved people. He was eager to bring people to Jesus.
5. He was a part of the first group of 4, but was often left out when Peter, James, and John were taken to more personal places with Jesus.
6. He was originally from Bethsaida in the northern region of Galilee, but later relocated with his brother Simon Peter to Capernaum where they operated a small fishing business and lived together with family (Mr. 1:29).
7. He was a disciple of John the Baptist before he was a disciple of Christ, and it was John the Baptist who actually led him to Christ.
8. Jesus trained him for leadership in His church. He spent close fellowship with Christ.
9. Even though he was overshadowed by his brother Peter he was not resentful, hatefully rivalrous, or estranged. He did not begrudge Peter's dominance and more public and pronounced leadership ability. He did not mind his often secondary status. He was a man of deep character. He had the right heart for truly effective ministry, and did not care who got the glory or recognition. He did not mind playing a supporting role, being "second," and could see immense value in modest things.
10. Andrew appears to be the most thoughtful of the 12. He seems to always do and say what is right except when he follows the lead of the others.
11. Andrew was a highly effective leader even though he never took the spotlight. He had a different leadership style than Peter. They were both perfectly suited for their particular calling. Andrew ministered in relative obscurity, behind the scenes, in the apparently smaller things.
12. When Jesus first met Andrew he was a devout and manly man. To follow John the Baptist and be mentored by him you could not be soft.
13. Andrew's personal encounter with Jesus took place a few months after Jesus' baptism.
14. Andrew eventually left his fishing business for more permanent and full-time discipleship and training.
15. Andrew was a man who saw the value of individual people, like the little boy who had only 5 loaves and 2 fish. Andrew knew how to introduce individuals to Jesus and He knew Jesus would accept and embrace anyone who really wanted Him.
16. You could say that Andrew was the first home missionary, leading his brother Peter to Christ, and the first foreign missionary, leading the Greeks to Christ, of the 12 apostles.
17. It's important to note that often times the most effective and important aspects of evangelism usually take place on an individual and personal level.
18. Both Andrew and Peter had evangelistic hearts, but their methods were very different. Peter would often preach to multitudes, while Andrew shared with individuals, one-on-one.
19. Consider the example of Edward Kimball who led D.L. Moody to Christ.
20. Andrew saw the value of apparently insignificant gifts like that of the boy with 5 loaves and 2 fish. Andrew's vision was not overwhelmed by the size of the need that was before him and those following Christ. Andrew did the best he could with what he had and trusted Jesus to make up the difference and more. Andrew knew that no gift was insignificant in the hands of Jesus. It only takes a little to accomplish so much in the hands of Christ. Don't be discouraged or intimidated by small things. God delights in using small things to show that the power belongs to Him. The power belongs to Christ. It is the sacrificial faithfulness of the giver, not the size of the gift, that is the true measure of the gift's significance.
21. Andrew knew he was not wasting Jesus' time by bringing small things to Him. Jesus could do everything without us, but He delights in using us for His glory and our joy. Jesus takes the sacrificial and often insignificant gifts of people who give faithfully, and He multiplies them to accomplish monumental things.
22. Andrew saw the value of inconspicuous service. He counted it a privilege to play in the band even if he did not get to play the "big drum." He was concerned with bringing people to Jesus, that was his desire. He had no craving for honor. He is a picture of laboring quietly in humble places. He was one of the rare people who is willing to take 2nd place and be in the place of support. He did not mind being hidden as long as the work was being done and Jesus was being exalted. Andrew never wrote any letters that are now in the Bible, was not as great of a preacher as Peter, and was not as great of a missionary and church planter as Paul. But he played his part in the Master's Plan as one of the Master's Men.
23. Tradition says he took the gospel north of Jerusalem. Eusebius, the ancient church historian, says he went as far north as Scythia (modern day Ukraine and Russia). This is why he is considered the patron saint of Russia today. He is also the patron saint of Scotland, and the famous Saint Andrew's Golf Club (traditional birthplace of golf) where they play the British Open is named after him (known as the home and starting place of golf).
24. Andrew ultimately made his way to Achaia, which is in southern Greece, near Athens.
25. Tradition says he led the wife of a provincial Roman governor to Christ, and that infuriated her husband. She refused to recant her devotion to Jesus, so the governor had Andrew crucified on an X shaped cross. Now the X shaped cross is known as "Saint Andrew's Cross."
26. He was the first of the 12 to hear that Jesus was the Savior, the first to follow Him, a part of Jesus' inner circle, given intimate access to Christ, his name will be ascribed on the foundations of the eternal city of the New Jerusalem, he had the privilege of introducing many individuals to Jesus, and ultimately he had the privilege of laying down his life out of love for Christ, love for people, and love for the church.
27. In effective ministry it's often the little things that count, the individual people, the insignificant gifts, and the inconspicuous service.
28. Andrew eventually left Jerusalem and traveled and ministered as a missionary in Pontus, Galatia, Bithynia, Byzantium (Constantinople/Istanbul), Thracia, Macedonai, Thessalia, Achaia, and Scythia. These places are in the present day Middle East, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, and Greece (etc.).
29. Andrew was martyred around 69 A.D.