

The University Heights Messenger

February 6, 2010

Andrew-The Great Introducer

Of the first foursome of apostles, Andrew is very much in the background. He was not present at some of the important events that included Peter, James, and John (Matthew 17:1; Mark 5:37; 14:33).

Andrew is best known for being Peter's brother. It is often difficult to live in the shadow of a sibling. How often do we see one sibling bitter and angry at the success of another? Perhaps they've been compared to that sibling their entire lives and they've been told that they just aren't stacking up. Perhaps such had been the case with Andrew and Simon Peter. Clearly Simon Peter was the dominant personality of the two. Simon Peter was the one always taking control of the situation, always speaking for whatever group he happened to be associated with. Simon Peter was a born leader while Andrew was most comfortable in a supporting, background role. Andrew means "manly" and this apostle was named quite appropriately. He was simply too much of a man to harbor ill will toward his dominant brother.

While Andrew may be the least known of the first foursome of the apostles, he played a very significant role. Have you ever noticed that in the few times Andrew rises above the group to be specifically mentioned he is without fail introducing someone to Jesus Christ (John 6:9; John 12:20-22; John 1:41-42)? Andrew seemed to have understood perhaps better than the others that Jesus wanted to meet anyone who wanted to meet Him, even if it was just a single individual soul (John 6:37). He was not known for preaching to huge crowds and converting thousands at a time, but he was very skilled at bringing the single, individual soul to the Lord.

Interestingly Andrew was one of the two apostles to have first met and spoke with Jesus. Take a moment to read **John 1:35-42**. He spent the latter part of a day with the Lord. The first thing he did upon leaving the Lord's presence was run to the person he loved most in the world, his own brother, to give him the news that he and John had found the Messiah.

Let's consider this single act from Andrew for a moment. While both he and Simon Peter possessed very evangelistic hearts they went about their work in two very distinct, different ways. Peter was always out front teaching the crowds. He must have been a dynamic and passionate speaker. He would stand before low and high alike, before the ruled and the rulers. In short, Peter made a lasting impression when he spoke and he was comfortable doing so before large crowds. Andrew never appears to us preaching great sermons to large multitudes. Instead, he was busy introducing single individuals to Christ. Yet in bringing his brother to meet the Lord, this loving, selfless action that led to Simon Peter's conversion, paved the way for the making of one of the greatest soldiers for Christ to have ever lived. All the fruit of Peter's ministry (and there was so much of it!) can be traced back to the single action of his brother, Andrew, in introducing him to Christ for the first time.

In searching through the Scriptures I have not been able to find an example of Andrew speaking that did not in some way relate to introducing someone to Jesus Christ. He wasn't loud. He wasn't in the spotlight. He wasn't wrestling with Simon Peter for leadership in the group. What he was he continues to be: the very definition of those who labor diligently but quietly in unseen, humble places.

When I think of the great pillars among the apostles Andrew is not the one who comes to mind. I immediately think of Simon Peter, whose very name means “rock.” I think of James and John, the passionate and sometimes volatile “sons of thunder” (James 3:17; Luke 9:51-56). Yet Andrew’s work was every bit as vital and important as that of the more well known apostles.

Andrew should serve as a lesson and example for each of us as Christians. The vast majority of those who have come to the Lord did not do so because of the eloquence and power of a moving sermon. Rather, they came to the Lord through the efforts of an individual Christian speaking to them at the workplace, at school, at the gym, or across the fence. Were he among us today, I imagine that Andrew would be one of those Christians who regularly brings visitors to the worship service and seems to always be involved in Bible studies. Those types of Christians are vital to a congregation. Truly, we should each be striving to become Andrew’s.

I can only imagine that Simon Peter never forgot the day that his brother, “the great introducer,” brought him to the Lord. Please think about these things.

AL

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Jeff Howerton is at home. A note expressing his thanks to the congregation is posted in the back.

Tabetha Lynn (niece of Gina Seabolt’s sister-in-law) continues to need our prayer after her car accident.

Shelly Stewart (friend of the Wallace’s) has had her surgery postponed twice. We should learn the new date today.

Our members: **Jim Edwards, Glenn Davis, Glenn Kimberlin.**

Others: **Vina Krassow, Marples family, Glyon Hill, Tom Curtis, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Wes Kidd, Gail Stein, Shannon Gilbert**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Streaming Bible study every Tuesday at 7.

The men’s meeting will be next Sunday at 3:30.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sun: Gen 11-12, Ps 6, Matt 8

Mon: Gen 13-15, Ps 7, Matt 9

Tue: Gen 16-17, Ps 8, Matt 10

Wed: Gen 18-19, Ps 9, Matt 11

Thu: Gen 20-21, Ps 10, Matt 12

Fri: Gen 22-23, Ps 11, Matt 13

Sat: Gen 24, Ps 12, Matt 14

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. Establishing Godly Homes
(Ephesians 5:22-29; 6:1-4)

Sunday PM. Philippians: Working Out Your
Salvation
(Philippians 2:12-18)