



TRUTH APPLICATIONS

Articles

Give Us More Andrews

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Peter is mentioned twelve times more often than his brother (156 to 13). When Andrew is mentioned, it's mostly incidental: in four lists of the apostles (Matt. 10:2; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14; Acts 1:13); with Peter when both were called (Matt. 4:18; Mark 1:16); in passing as Jesus left the Capernaum synagogue (Mark 1:29); one who asked the questions that led to the Olivet discourse (Mark 13:3); a disciple of John who among those the forerunner pointed to Jesus (John 1:40); and indirectly in a reference to Philip who came from the same hometown (John 1:44).

Three texts, all in John, tell a little more. It was Andrew who recruited Peter (1:41), who brought to Jesus the boy with the meager lunch that would feed 5,000 (6:8-9), who took Philip and the Greeks who had approached him to see Jesus (12:20-22).

Consider three lessons. First, those who quietly point people to Jesus are important. As one of the Twelve, he would preach on Pentecost (Acts 2:4), but Andrew was never as prominent as Peter or Paul. That did not make him less useful. He did what he could to help people see Jesus, most prominently his brother, Peter, holder of the kingdom's keys (Matt. 16:19). How different would the church have been without Peter? That's a good question, but a better one is this: how different would things have been without *Andrew*?

Second, Andrew did what he could and trusted the Lord to take care of the rest. When, in John 6, he discovered the boy with his meager resources, Andrew didn't see all Jesus could do ("but what are they for so many?" - v. 9), but he knew Jesus could do something and so contributed positively to the only sign recorded in all four gospels. He did the same when the Greeks came seeking Jesus (John 12:20-22).

Third, and perhaps most instructive for us, Andrew shows the value of disciples with initiative. Too often, we see willing servants waiting for today's Peters to create the sign-up sheet. How much more brightly would the church's light shine if more had Andrew's initiative?

The old spiritual, "Balm in Gilead," says, "If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus, and say, 'He died for all.'" Perhaps Andrew inspired those lines. May we see more like him.

October 26, 2010
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