

Mark 3 13-19F - Andrew

[Mar 3:13-19 NKJV] 13 And He went up on the mountain and called to [Him] those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. 14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, 15 and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: 16 Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; 17 James the [son] of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"; 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the [son] of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite; 19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house.

Well, we have covered Peter James and John so far. So today we arrive at Andrew. It is possible that Andrew has the most to teach us of all the disciples because our **life situations** are more like his than any of those we have covered so far. Peter, James and John seemed to be movers and shakers. They were high profile followers of Christ. They got a lot of attention. They seemed to like being the center of attention. They were prone to climb for better positions.

And then we read of Andrew. He was in the circle of the first 4 apostles, so he had more access to Christ than those who were in the outer circles. He probably knew Christ better than those on the outside, but not as well as Peter, James and John. But before we begin getting the wrong idea about this man, as if he was some kind of a timid mousy kind of person, we need to look at the facts.

Again, Andrew, Peter's brother, was a fisherman by trade. So he was accustomed to hard work and facing the elements. There was a certain danger for those who fished on this lake. Severe storms were known to blow up very quickly. So all of that tells us a great deal, right off the bat.

Then the next thing we know is that John and Andrew were disciples of John the Baptist. And remember what we know about John the Baptist? He lived a rough life in rough terrain. There was nothing affluent or comfortable about him. So what do you think life would have been like for his disciples?

Andrew was the kind of guy that was committed to following truth wherever it led. He was not going to back down if it interfered with his pleasure or convenience. Andrew was a rock solid follower, even displaying this virtue with John before we meet any of the other 12. Let's look at what the book of John tells us.

[Jhn 1:35-42 NKJV] 35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 Then 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?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). 40 One of the two who heard John [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. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

OK, So we see John and Andrew with John the Baptist when Christ shows up to be baptized. The next day John points out Christ. Look what happens. These guys don't worry about niceties. John the Baptist has said, up to this point, that Christ was the focal point of his purpose. John was pointing people to Christ. So Andrew and John seem to have taken him at his word. Right then and there, they seek an audience with Christ. The assumption seems to be that **if John the Baptist meant what he said, following Christ** would be the most natural next step. So they do.

So John and Andrew spend some quality time with Christ gaining the information they need to determine if he truly is the Messiah. They become convinced.

Now, at this point, what would you do? Would you want to retain this position for yourself so you can have a special status with those who are around you? For some, that would be a temptation. But look what Andrew does.

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. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

Now, do you think Andrew may have known what kind of person his brother was? Don't you think that Andrew was used to Peter stealing the show? Peter was never one to stay in the shadows. He was front and center. All eyes were on him.

Have you ever considered that Andrew knew exactly what would happen when he brought Peter to Christ? It will be like every other time he included his brother in his circles. "Who is that guy?" "Oh that's Andrew." "Andrew who?" "Oh, you know...Peter's brother." "Oooohhh".

But Andrew, surely knowing all that, seems to have no hesitations about what this was going to cost him. All he knew is that he had found Christ, and the person Andrew loves the most needs to find him too.

So Andrew wastes no time. He, very intentionally, makes this task his first priority. He will not let it go undone. He will not be distracted. He finds Peter, tells him of his experience with Christ, and invites Peter to come to Christ as well. This application is so terribly obvious that we cannot pass without making it.

What Andrew did is what we SHOULD do. What Andrew did is what we CAN do. What Andrew does here is the first example of home missions. Andrew does what Christ will eventually command all his followers to do.

The beauty of this is that it is so relational. Andrew doesn't need to go to seminary. He doesn't need to complete the witnessing class. In fact, the things he does not know about Christ at this point far outweigh what he does know. But he loves his brother. He has met Christ. Christ is the one he believes he has been waiting for. So he intentionally finds Peter and shares with Peter what he has learned about Christ.

Do you think Peter is going to grill Andrew about his presentation? Of course not. It is his brother. Peter is going to hear what Andrew is saying, and he will make a decision accordingly.

How many people in your life are there right now that you can converse about any number of things? People who respect you. They regard what you say as being important.

Have you ever shared with them the most important thing you have ever found? Have you ever shared with them why you are following Christ and invited them to follow him too? That is all Andrew did.

Think about that? Make a list. Who are people who listen to you, respect you, but don't know Christ? Make a list and bring those people before God. Pray for opportunities. Look for opportunities. And when appropriate, make opportunities. Most people come to Christ through the influence of an individual. Most people come to Christ as a result of personal witnessing. Now they might make it official at a meeting. But the stories of most people who have come to Christ trace their way back to people who they respected who told them about Christ.

We can all do that. In fact, we must all do that. And church growth is always a natural outcome of that kind of intentional focus.

I was listening to Pastor Azurdia preaching through Revelation this week. Evidently his church was in a building project when he was preaching. He was excited about seeing more people come to Christ, not to meet some manmade quota, but because the more people who follow Christ, the more Christ is glorified. He asked the question, so what will we do if we fill this new building. He just laughed and said, we will build another one. To see Christ glorified is the ultimate goal. Do we carry that zeal? Do we carry that priority? Is it even important to us that Christ would receive glory through our lives in Oakland MD? That is what Christians are for. That is what our breathing is for. That is what the stories of our lives are for.

And we don't need to think that all witnessing is some kind of nasty confrontation. Sometimes it can turn into that. But really, how would most of your worldly associates respond to the question, "How do you think a person gets right with

God?" Wouldn't most people tell you? If they are correct, the natural next question would be, "Is that what you have done?" That gives you a natural avenue to talk to them about spiritual things. And if they are clearly wrong, we can just ask the question, "If the bible says something different than what you just told me, would you want to know about it?"

They might say no. But what was harmed. If they say yes, you now have the opportunity to tell them how you were saved based on what the Bible says.

So we see what Andrew did.

And look what happens.

42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

Andrew might have said at this point, yeah, that is about what I expected. Peter is singled out for prominence..... Andrew wasn't. Peter was.

But the beauty in all of this is that we never see Andrew caring about this. Andrew was never mentioned in the quarrels about who was greatest. We never see any resentment of any kind coming out of Andrew toward his brother.

Andrew was content to do this kind of work over and over again without ever getting much affirmation for it.

But there is something to consider here.

When Peter preached at Pentecost and 3000 people responded, something we never see Andrew do, where does that trace its way back to? Andrew's ministry.

Andrew led Peter to Christ.

We may never know the fruit that will be borne by the people we introduce to Christ. We may actually have a ministry that goes to the ends of the globe. Such a thing is possible for even such people as us in a secluded area of MD and WV.

Never underestimate what God will do with your faithful efforts. That is the very thing we learn from the life of Andrew.

Let's look at a little more of Andrew's life.

[Jhn 6:4-13 NKJV] 4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. 5 Then Jesus lifted up [His] eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. 7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." 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.

This is a very interesting event. I remember that Mike gave us a lot of insights into what these men experienced. Evidence shows that these men were probably very tired of putting up with the pressure that ministry to the crowds involved. So they would have been very glad to send the people away. But Jesus would have none of it.

So Philip, the accountant type, takes a look at the funds and gives his report. They had about 9 months wages for a single man. So in our world, if a person made \$40K per year, this would be \$30K. That is a lot of money, but it would not have bought enough food, even if available, for a crowd this big.

So Philip gives the negative answer. But look what Andrew does. He has an eye for the insignificant. He has an eye for the little person and the little contribution. **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?"**

Andrew evidently had spoken to this lad. He knew this lad's lunch in too much detail to not have done some research. Andrew didn't get lost in the big picture. He involved himself in the small. It didn't seem significant, but a boy here had something to give. And Andrew may have been the only disciple there who actually would take note of that. Even he didn't think it would have significance to Christ in solving this problem, but it was significant to Andrew.

Aren't these the people we dearly love in our lives? They genuinely are interested and care about the small details of our small lives. These people don't need impressed and they aren't focused on impressing anyone else. They meet us on our level and they stay there.

And look what Jesus does with this information that came from Andrew's concern for the little guy and the little things. Christ used that contribution to feed what 200 Denari would not have purchased. It was used to feed the whole crowd, to lengthen the time that Christ got to minister to these people. And then there was enough left for the Disciples to get the object lesson of carrying these huge baskets of bread for what was probably a couple of miles.

I'll bet they got the point. And all from the observation of a man who was never in the spotlight.

Now, let's look at another event that tells us more about Andrew.

[Jhn 12:20-22 NKJV] 20 Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. 21 Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

Here we see Andrew in his usual condition. He is not in the mainstream. He isn't even approached by the Greek gentlemen. They are drawn to Philip for whatever reason.

Now we don't know why Philip didn't take them directly to Christ. Maybe he didn't because he was not in Christ's inner circle. He may not have known whether Christ would want to talk to these men or not. I suspect that is what the true story is. But we can't know that. Maybe Philip was more timid than Andrew and didn't want to take any risks. Suppose Philip tries to introduce these men but Christ rejects them. Philip may not have wanted to be involved in that interaction. So he brings them men to Andrew.

And what is Andrew's fall back position? If a person wants to talk to Christ, I will take them to Christ. That is, after all, what Andrew is good at doing.

All Andrew needs to hear is "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." That is music to Andrew's ears. He knows exactly what to do from that point on.

We already saw how Andrew was the first home missionary. Now Andrew is the first foreign missionary. He is now bringing Greeks to Christ.

As far as we know, Andrew never did any of the things we would think of as being "big" things. He didn't start any churches that we know of. He did, however, take the Gospel North. Eusebius tells us that Andrew went as far as Scythia. This is now Kazakhstan and Russia. He ended up being crucified near Athens. One source says that it is because he led a person to Christ that got him in trouble. She was a provincial Roman governors wife. It made her husband so angry that he had Andrew crucified. Tradition says it was on an X shaped cross. It also says that he was bound on the cross instead of nailed to it to prolong his suffering. The same sources say that as he hung on the cross he compelled all passers by to come to Christ themselves.

This would have been perfectly fitting for Andrew. It is what he did in the short period of time that we got to see parts of his life. It would be perfectly normal for him to do that the rest of his life.

Tell me. Don't you find encouragement in the life of Andrew?

There is so much to learn from him. He was never seduced into envy or jealousy for those who naturally get the spotlight. He evidently recognized himself as he really was. He knew he was not a Peter or a James. And he had the wisdom to not try to be. He was a quiet person. He was a person who noticed the little things and the little people. He paid attention. And every time he had opportunity, he brought a person to Christ. And he just kept doing it.

Oh, how the body of Christ needs Andrews. We need people who will be about the business of loving our neighbors as ourselves and bringing up the topic of Christ whenever we can. I think it is safe to say that the church is made up of these kind of people in a far greater proportion to the Peters and James and Johns of the church.

The passage I am about to read is for bondservants, but it has an application to all servants of Christ that Andrew would have related to.

[Eph 6:5-8 NKJV] 5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether [he is] a slave or free.

Oh that we would learn this lesson. This is the lesson that only looks one place for our payoff. We quit looking at what everyone else is doing or not doing. We quit looking at what everyone else is getting or not getting. We quit envying or feeling bitter toward those that we think are better off than us or have it easier than us.

And we look one place for our reward.

We do the will of God from the heart, as to the Lord and not to man. Because we know that our reward ultimately only comes from one place. Our reward comes from God alone.

And as we do that we do well to keep something else in mind that scripture tells us.

[1Co 1:27-31 NKJV] 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-- 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

Andrew is our example of this, this morning. Andrew just did the little things that were in front of him to do. Some might have said, "Why Andrew, you really had nothing about you that would make a good apostle". And Andrew probably would have agreed. He may have said, yes, I know what you mean. I am just a simple man. But I serve a great Lord.

God takes pleasure out of doing great things through people the world would think are nothing special. He chooses the foolish to shame to smart. He chooses the weak to shame the strong. He uses the small to do really big things.

I think we do well to take great encouragement from this. It means that God gets a kick out of using people like us, people like those of us who come together at

Ferndale Baptist Church in Oakland MD. It is just like Christ to make a name for Himself through people who don't have much of a name for themselves.

Oh that we would have a heart like Andrew that will love people to Christ, and will want to see the Glory of Christ magnified through everyone we meet.