

## Be an Andrew

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Joseph Carty / General

Evangelism / A Witness / John 1:40-42

We should invite people like Andrew did.

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### › 358 - Far and Near the Fields are Teeming

George Sweeting, in his book *The No-Guilt Guide for Witnessing*, tells of a man by the name of John Currier who in 1949 was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison. Later he was transferred and paroled to work on a farm near Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1968, Currier's sentence was terminated, and a letter bearing the good news was sent to him. But John never saw the letter, nor was he told anything about it. Life on that farm was hard and without promise for the future. Yet John kept doing what he was told even after the farmer for whom he worked had died.

Ten years went by. Then a state parole officer learned about Currier's plight, found him, and told him that his sentence had been terminated. He was a free man.

Sweeting concluded that story by asking, "Would it matter to you if someone sent you an important message -- the most important in your life -- and year after year the urgent message was never delivered?"

We who have heard the good news and experienced freedom through Christ are responsible to proclaim it to others still enslaved by sin. Are we doing all we can to make sure that people get the message?

What does it mean

to be a witness?

- Someone who has
  - experienced something
    - that can share about it
      - with someone else.

## Biography of Andrew

- Only 12 verse
  - speak about Andrew.
- Let's see
  - what kind of man
    - he was.

Beginning of the story.

- Andrew was
  - a disciple of John Baptist.
- following him.

- by Jordan.
- Listening to
  - John's Teachings

**John 1:26–27 ESV**

John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,

even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

- The next day...

**John 1:29–34 ESV**

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’

I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me,

‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’

And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

- The next day again...

[John 1:35–40](#) (ESV)

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,  
and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

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?”

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.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

- Very first verse
  - chronologically
  - that speaks about Andrew...

- It tells
  - what he is like.

[John 1:41-42](#) (ESV)

He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ).

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).

- This is typical Andrew
  - What did he do...
    - **“brought him to Jesus...”**
- Next few verses,
  - tell a parallel story.
- And mentions Andrew
  - in passing.
- Notice he was from
  - Andrew’s town.

- I wonder if
  - Andrew had already
    - talked to him...?
- Either way,
  - I love story
    - of witnessing.

[John 1:43–46](#) (ESV)

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

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Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him,

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“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

- I have seen

- and experienced something
- You have got to come
  - check it out.
- His phrase,
  - **“come and see...”**

## Without Testimony

There was once a court case that was lost because of the silence of an attorney. The distinguished lawyer Samuel Hoar (1778-1856) was representing the defendant. When it was time to present his case, he told the jurors that the facts favoring his client were so evident that he would not insult their intelligence by arguing them. The jury retired to deliberate and returned in a few minutes with a verdict of guilty. Samuel Hoar was astonished!

“How,” he asked, “could you have reached such a verdict?”

The foreman replied, “We all agreed that if anything could be said for a case, you would say it. But since you didn’t present any evidence, we decided to rule against you.” Silence had lost the case.

How often the opportunity to speak a word of testimony for Christ is lost because we remain silent. Those who need to hear the gospel may conclude that salvation is not important enough to talk about.

*Source Unknown*

- Some say,
  - Christian life is
    - the greatest witness...
  
- True but...
  - Should finally be
    - accompanied
      - with words!!!
  
- We have to
  - say something.
  
- Many will be lost
  - we don't want
    - them to say
      - "You knew..."
      - "Why didn't you
        - tell me"



# Fish Tales

- Fast foreward
  - in the story...
- Andrew and Peter had been
  - following Jesus for a while
    - but they had not
      - left their full-time jobs.
- Until this story.

## **Luke 5:1–11 ESV**

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret,

and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.

Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your

word I will let down the nets.”

And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.

They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”

For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken,

and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.”

And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

## Full-time Witnessing

### **Desire of Ages** Chapter 25—The Call by the Sea

It was after Peter had been led to self-renunciation and dependence upon divine power that he received the call to his work for Christ.

Until this time none of the disciples had fully united as collaborators with Jesus. They had witnessed many of His miracles, and had listened to His teaching; but they had not entirely forsaken their former employment. The imprisonment of John the Baptist had been to them all a bitter disappointment. If such were to be the outcome of John’s mission, they could have little hope for their Master, with all the religious leaders combined against Him. Under the circumstances it

was a relief to them to return for a short time to their fishing. But now Jesus called them to forsake their former life, and unite their interests with His. Peter had accepted the call. Upon reaching the shore, Jesus bade the three other disciples, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left all, and followed Him.

- This is where
  - we pick up the story
    - in Matt and Mark

**Matthew 4:18–20** **ESV**

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.

And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

- parallel passage in Mark
- Finally,
  - they leave everything
    - to follow Jesus.

- Jesus,
  - through the large catch
    - teaches the disciples
      - He can provide.
- They decide to trust Him,
  - and become
    - full-time disciples.

They start their lives

- as full-time missionaries.
- They start seeing
  - the power of God
    - immediately.
- First,
  - Goes into synagogue
    - in Capernaum

- teaches with authority.
- Cast out demon
  - from guy at church.
- Next he goes to
  - Andrew's house.

## At Andrew's House

### **Mark 1:29-31** **ESV**

And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her.

And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

- That is not all.
  - Jesus does not stop

- with Peter's mother-in-law.

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**Mark 1:32-34 ESV**

That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons.

And the whole city was gathered together at the door.

And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

- I'm sure they
  - were glad they
    - decided to give up
      - everything to follow.
- Jesus did all this
  - At Andrew's house!
- It's different
  - when it happens
    - in your home!

- Andrew really witnessed
  - something powerful
- He has a story
  - to tell
    - Anyone
    - everyone.

Astrophysicist Neil Degrasse Tyson explained why space is dark. Why does our sun not light up space? The answer is fairly simple: light needs something to reflect off of. Sunlight from our sun and other stars float through space, but without anything to reflect off, there is only darkness. This is how we get moonlight. The moon is just a rock in space. It does not have any light of its own. But because it reflects the sun's light, the moon offers us a bit more light to guide us in the evening.

- As Christians
  - we reflect light
    - of Jesus.
- That is witnessing.
  - by actions.

- by words.
  - BY INVITATIONS.
  - “COME AND SEE!”
- At some point after,
    - Jesus decides to
    - make it official.

## Ordination Service

- for the 12.

### **Matthew 10:1–4** **ESV**

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;

Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

- Andrew was there



- for all the
  - important moments
    - in Jesus' ministry.
- Officially
  - one of the
    - 12 disciples.
- He could really witness
  - for Jesus now.
- He was there at
  - the feeding of the
    - 5000 men.

## Feeding of the 5,000

- People followed Jesus

- middle of nowhere.
- not many packed lunch.

#### **John 6:5 ESV**

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?”

- Jesus was testing
  - their faith.
- Andrews seems to
  - respond in faith.

#### **John 6:8–10 ESV**

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him,

“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?”

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.

- This is special
  - for two reasons.

- Not only is
  - this a response of faith.
- It is his
  - “modus operandi.”
- He is always,
  - bringing people to Jesus.

I remember hearing of a man at sea who was very sea-sick. If there is a time when a man feels that he cannot do any work for the Lord it is then -- in my opinion. While this man was sick he heard that a man had fallen overboard. He was wondering if he could do anything to help to save him. He laid hold of a light, and held it up on the port-hole.

The drowning man was saved. When this man got over his attack of sickness he was up on deck one day, and was talking to the man who was rescued. The saved man gave this testimony. He said he had gone down the second time, and was just going down again for the last time, when he put out his hand. Just then, he said, some one held a light at the port-hole, and the light fell on his hand. A man caught him by the hand and pulled him into the lifeboat.

It seemed a small thing to do to hold up the light; yet it saved the man's life. If you cannot do some great thing you can hold the light for some poor, perishing sinner, who may be won to Christ and delivered from destruction.

- What John did
  - may seem insignificant.
- What you do
  - may seem insignificant
- But it means a lot
  - to the one
    - who is saved
      - because of your invitation.
- In the last few days
  - of Jesus life.
  - After
    - resurrection of Lazarus
    - triumphal entry
      - Something happened.

**John 12:20–22 ESV**

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks.

So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

- Jesus preaches
  - to these Gentiles.
- A sermon
  - about his death.
- Notice though,
  - Andrew is always
    - in the middle of the action.
- And,
  - He is always doing
    - something specific.
- What is that?
  - Witnessing...
  - Inviting...
  - Guiding

- people toward Jesus.
- Why do we not witness?
  - What keeps us from...?
- Fear!
  - Fear of rejection!

**Romans 1:16 ESV**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

- Jesus said:

**Mark 8:38 ESV**

For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

- Will we choose to be ashamed?
  - Will we allow

- fear of rejection
- to keep us from
- sharing Jesus?

A young man enlisted, and was sent to his regiment. The first night he was in the barracks with about fifteen other young men, who passed the time playing cards and gambling. Before retiring, he fell on his knees and prayed, and they began to curse him and jeer at him and throw boots at him. So it went on the next night and the next, and finally the young man went and told the chaplain what had taken place, and asked what he should do.

"Well," said the chaplain, "you are not at home now, and the other men have just as much right to the barracks as you have. It makes them mad to hear you pray, and the Lord will hear you just as well if you say your prayers in bed and don't provoke them."

For weeks after the chaplain did not see the young man again, but one day he met him, and asked -- "By the way, did you take my advice?"

"I did, for two or three nights."

"How did it work?"

"Well," said the young man, "I felt like a whipped hound and the third night I got out of bed, knelt down and prayed."

"Well," asked the chaplain, "How did that work?"

The young soldier answered: "We have a prayer meeting there now every night, and three have been converted, and we are praying for the rest."

Moody's Anecdotes, Page 73-74.

- Don't be ashamed
  - Witness for Jesus
    - with power
      - and pride.

## Real Estate Sales

A model from the world of real estate becomes instructive at this point. A firm in Salem, Oregon, assigns 500 families to each agent. Agents are expected to contact each assigned family once per month for a year. The contact may be personal, a telephone call, or a letter. Research indicates that it takes at least six contacts for people to remember who the agent is and the firm represented. During this time of "building relationships," agents are encouraged not to go in the house (good psychology, everyone else is trying to get their foot in the door). Furthermore, they are encouraged not to ask for a listing during this "get acquainted" time. Obviously, there would be exceptions to these restrictions, but they do illustrate an understanding of what it takes to create a favorable climate for selling real estate. After the initial year of regular contacts, the agent continues to communicate with the assigned families on a scheduled, systematic basis. Research reveals that if this pattern is followed consistently for 1.5 years, the agent will secure 80% of the listings.

Reach a few, rest tell others.

What does the real estate firm know that we either do not know or overlook?

1. People do not like to be confronted by strangers seeking entrance into their homes.



Salesman to pitch perfectly but it is usually resisted.

But, if a friend comes over and shares a glowing personal testimony concerning the value of the agent's product, the reaction is apt to be markedly different.

**A satisfied customer makes the most effective salesperson.**

- In life
  - you are the
    - satisfied customer
  
- You accepted Jesus
- accepted truth
  - changed your life.
  
- You have relationships
  - I don't have.
    - like salesman.
  
- Invitation
  - must come from you!!!

# Appeal

## Andrew - Normal

- brother of boisterous Peter
- Not called evangelist like Phillip
- Not considered “the beloved disciple”
- Just a normal follower
- lived in the shadow
  - of his brother, Peter.
- Didn’t need to stick out.
- He was dependable.
  - always there.
- Most of all,
  - he was always witnessing.

- Always bringing people to Jesus.

- simple
- personal
  - invitations.

- Today,
  - God needs more Andrews!

- People,
- who don't need
  - accolades or recognition.
  - to be up front.

- People willing
  - to witness
    - to make a personal
      - invitation
        - “come and see...”

- Today,
  - I have the perfect
    - opportunity.
- Invitation Cards