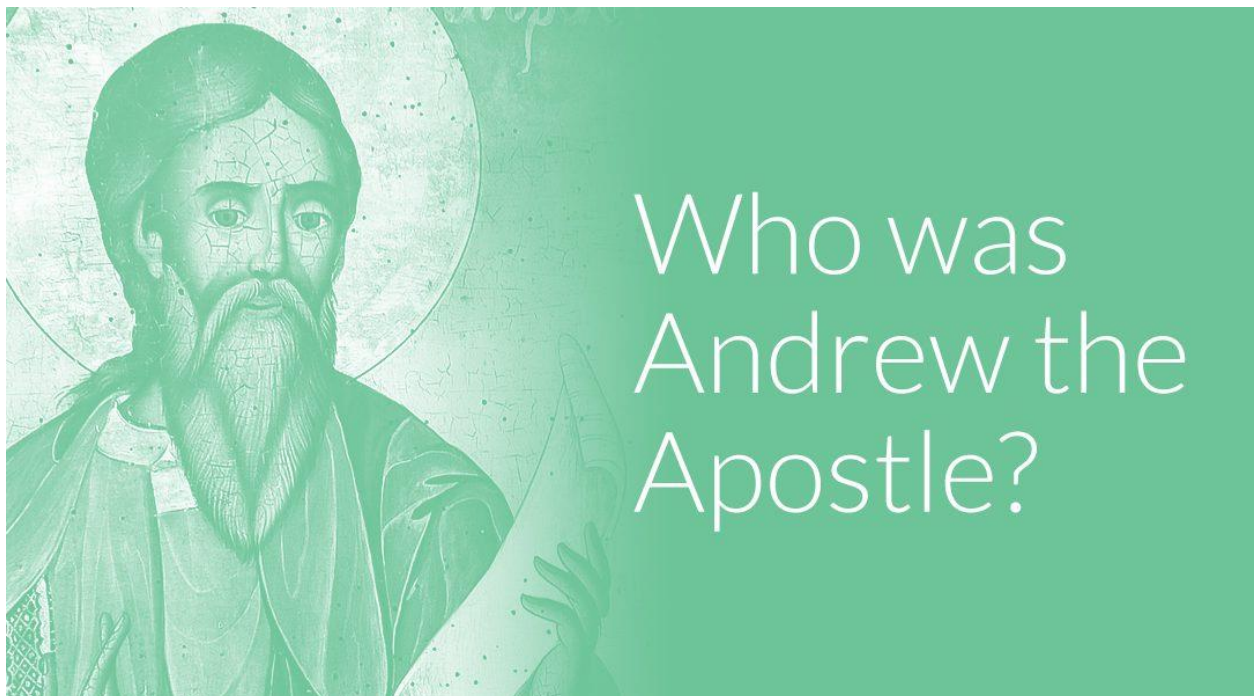


Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

02/05/2021 -- Disciples in Question 4

Andrew



Today is "Church & Chat"

A short church reflection with a hymn, reading, (children's activity), prayer, "thought for the week" and then a time to chat. If you need help to join please ask any deacon

All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:10

Good morning and welcome to this week's thoughts.

Our first hymn for today is: "Send Me Out"

[Send Me Out \(Steve Fee\) with Lyrics - YouTube](#)

Jesus, Lord of my salvation, Saviour of my soul
Send me out to the world to make You known
Jesus, King of every nation, this world's only hope
Send me out to the world to make you known
Send me out to the world

*I wanna be Your hands & feet
I wanna be Your voice every time I speak
I wanna run to the ones in need
In the name of Jesus
I wanna give my life away, all for Your kingdom's sake
Shine a light in the darkest place,
In the name of Jesus
In the name of Jesus.*

Carry to the broken-hearted mercy You Have shown
Send me out to the world to make You known
And to the ones in need of rescue, lead me I will go
Send me out to the world to make you known
Send me out to the world

I wanna be Your hands & feet...

Here am I, I will go
Send me out to make You known
There is hope for every soul
Send me out, send me out

I wanna be Your hands & feet...

The reading today is John 1: 35-42 [John 1: 35-42 NIVUK - John's disciples follow Jesus - The - Bible Gateway](#)



Andrew the first and inconspicuous disciple that brings people to Christ

As we explore the disciples, I find it strange that the first disciple named and one that most people can name when asked who the 12 disciples were, only has 12 mentions in the bible, 4 of which are in the lists of apostles. However, Andrew has a lot to teach us about the importance of bringing people to Jesus in inconspicuous service.

Do you ever feel that the resources, time and spiritual gifts that you have to offer are too insignificant to make a difference? Unfortunately, many Christians foolishly believe that the public displays of service are far more important than the outcome of service, pleasing God! While service that is seen by many is often deemed impressive, so are the acts done in secret of which no eye can see except God. While Apostle Andrew never preached to multitudes of people, never founded any churches, or wrote any epistles; his indiscrete service has been heard loud and clear for centuries! From Andrew's testimony we learn that "there are no insignificant gifts, no inconspicuous service and evangelism one on one is powerful and effective!"

Who was Andrew?

Andrew's family was from Bethsaida on the northern shore of the sea of Galilee (John 1:44) but he lived in Capernaum with his brother Simon, both fishermen.

Before he met Jesus Andrew followed John the Baptist, who led Andrew to Jesus. John warned the crowd that Jesus would soon come and those who had by faith received His Good News would be baptized by the Holy Spirit. Andrew most likely recognized John's words to be the fulfilment of Scripture.

The moment Andrew met Jesus he became His disciple. Andrew who had been waiting for the right Person to be identified was overwhelmed when he heard John speak the words "look, the Lamb of God". Both Andrew and the other disciple with him immediately left their former teacher John and followed Jesus! The very next thing Andrew did after spending time with Jesus was get his brother Simon and take him to meet Jesus. When called by Jesus and assigned their roles as "fishers of men" Andrew and Simon immediately left their fishing nets and followed Jesus!

Growing up with Simon, Andrew must have known the moment that Simon joined Jesus close group of disciples he would take charge and as a result would be in his shadow, and yet there is no bitterness or sibling rivalry. Andrew knew that God had great things planned for each of the disciples. Andrew was different to Peter, he was the first called to the group and his role was one that used the gifts and calling bestowed upon him to work in the background as a one on one evangelist. While you will not find stories of Andrew walking on water or preaching in front of big crowds like his brother Simon-Peter, Andrew's is equally impressive for he certainly knew the value of relational ministry! "His eagerness to follow Christ, combined with his passion for introducing others to Him, demonstrates Andrew's character."

So what can we learn from a man who so little is known?

Like Andrew we must be ok with serving others in God's name whether in the spotlight or the background.

Andrew started the evangelism movement in that one simple act of talking to his brother and bringing him to Jesus. Not a great gesture but the start of bringing people to Christ. Andrew started his ministry with his family. For some this is easy but for other this is very difficult.

One of our friends mum turned 91 this week, she is a lady of great faith and has undertaken missionary life in Africa and has many experiences, but she was telling a group of us that she found God at the age of 16 and was told by the person who brought her to God that the first

thing she had to do was to tell her family and friends. The next day she went into work and shouted out “I was saved last night”. How often do we tell those we are close to about our faith? Sometimes that is not as easy as it sounds.

The next demonstration of Andrews one to one ministry was when Jesus crossed the far shore of the Sea of Galilee with a great crowd following. When Jesus saw the crowd coming toward Him He asked Phillip where they might buy bread to feed so many people? Phillip did some quick accounting and responded that this would be impossible for it would cost eight months of a person’s wage to buy enough bread to give each in the crowd a small piece. In Matthew’s, Mark’s and Luke’s version of this story the disciples then recommend that Jesus send the crowds away to the villages to buy their own food. It was Andrew that brought the boy to Jesus with five barely loaves and two small fish. While Andrew would have been aware that such a small amount of food would not physically feed so many, he believed no gift would be insignificant in Jesus’ hands! Jesus then blessed this small amount of food and was able to feed five thousand men plus women and children.

Andrew did not see age as a barrier to bringing people to Jesus, because he recognised Jesus as the Messiah that through his miracles could take something small and turn it into enough for all. A very humble gesture unseen by most.

Andrew continued broadening his reach as we learn in John 12:20-24

20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘we would like to see Jesus.’ 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

23 Jesus replied, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

This is Andrew taking the message wider and bringing other nations to Jesus. It is not surprising that the greeks went to Philip and in turn Andrew as these were the two disciples with Greek names; and may themselves have had some special connection by birth, or residence, or culture with Greek civilisation. However it is Andrew, who is in a position of greater intimacy with Jesus and took them all to Him. Jesus then makes the reference to producing many seeds.

We can learn much from the little that is written about Andrew.

While many people come to know Christ through public evangelism campaigns, others come to know Christ through one on one relationships. Andrew was the one who introduced the leader of the twelve, Peter to Jesus. Andrew was the one who spent time with the crowd and knew what the boy in the feeding of the five thousand had to offer. Andrew led nations to Jesus in a quiet unassuming way. While many become Christians through public testimony many more become Christians through the testimony of a friend! While you may not be called to be an evangelist like Billy Graham who preached to billions and had millions of converts, plant as many seeds as you can and trust that even if we do not see the fruits of our service God will bless and yield crops of a hundred, sixty or thirty times what you have sown (Matthew 13:8)!

<p>I’ll be a voice for the Master, Speaking for Jesus today; Guiding the souls He is seeking, Into the beautiful way.</p>	<p><i>I’ll be a voice! I’ll be a voice! Teaching the truth and the way; I’ll be a voice! I’ll be a voice! Speaking for Jesus today.</i></p>	<p>I’ll be a voice to the wand’rer, Though far away he may roam; Telling love’s welcome is waiting, Guiding the prodigal home.</p> <p><i>I’ll be a voice! I’ll be a voice!</i></p>	<p>I’ll be a voice for the Master, Unto the sad and oppressed; Guiding the feet of the weary Unto His haven of rest.</p> <p><i>I’ll be a voice! I’ll be a voice!</i></p>
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Our second hymn for today “Shine”

[Shine from the inside out - YouTube](#)

Shine from the inside out
That the world will see you live in me
Shine from the inside out
That the world will see you live in me

You know me and you love me
You fill me, so send me to...

Shine from the inside out
That the world will see you live in me
Shine from the inside out
That the world will see you live in me

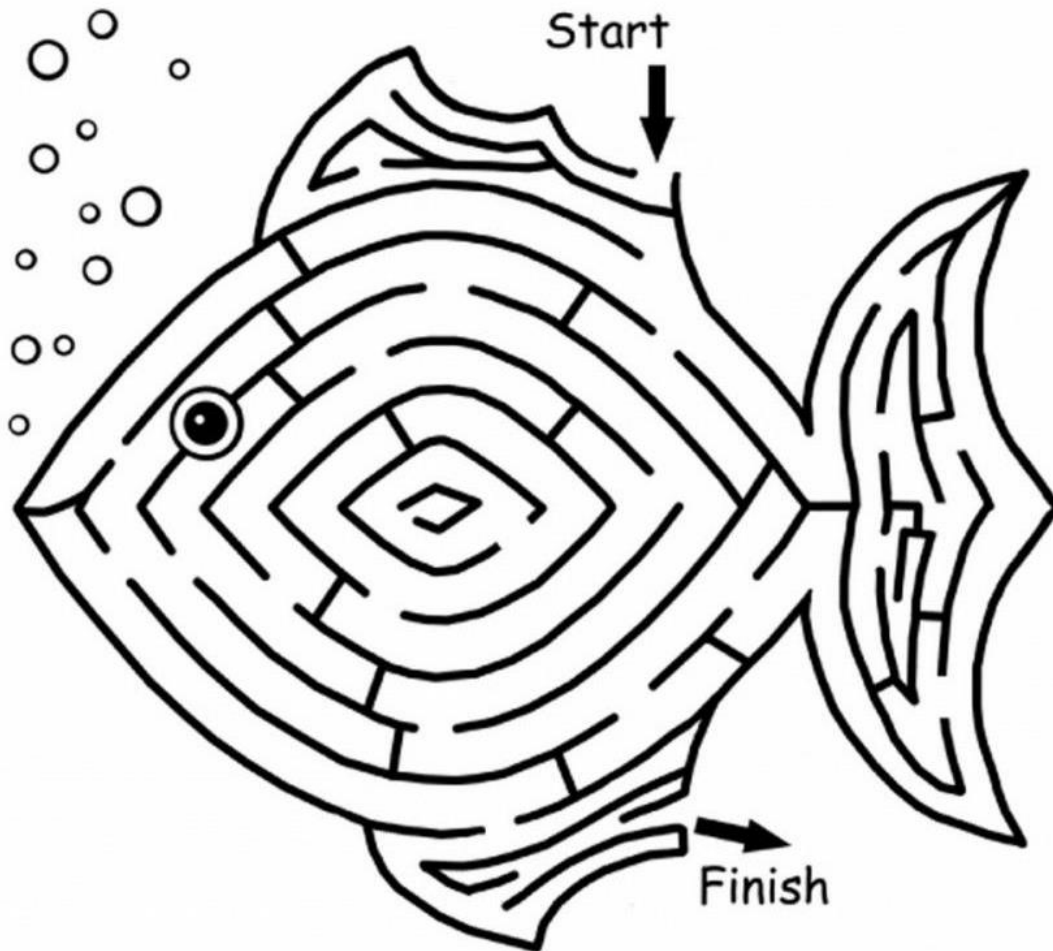
Shine from the inside out.....

Know me, love me, fill me, send me
Know me, love me, fill me, send me
Know me, love me, fill me, send me
Shine

Today's Pray:

Dear God. Thank you that Andrew brought people to Jesus. God help us not lose that passion to BRING people to Jesus. Help us become fishers of people. Help us tell others what You have done for us and what you want to do for them - Amen.

I like to follow Jesus!



**From now on, you will fish for people.
Luke 5:10b**

