

Found to Find Others

Text: John 1:35-42

Introduction:

When my grandson Travis was in Kindergarten, Joyce and I would quiz him on the capitals of the 50 states. We were astonished at the speed and accuracy of his answers. A year passed and we asked him those same questions and his answers were slower and less accurate. I asked him, "Travis, last year you were so quick to know these cities, what happened? He said, "Grandpa, I'm in the first grade now. We don't study that now."

If you have not forgotten your elementary geography you might remember the odd way in which some of the capitals are less familiar than the famous ones. New Orleans is not the capital of Louisiana, but Baton Rouge. Chicago is not the capital of Illinois, but Springfield. Neither Los Angeles, San Diego nor San Francisco but Sacramento is the capital of California, and who would think of Topeka as the capitol of Kansas? In a similar way the apostle Andrew was overshadowed by his brother Simon Peter. If we were keeping score Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, is only mentioned 13 times in the Bible whereas his older brother Peter appears 156 times. Yet Andrew was one of the first two to follow Jesus. Though not on center stage he symbolizes the kind of Christian most needed in the church today.

According to the highly respected George Hunter III--41% of Americans are radically unchurched (attending no church weddings, no Church funerals, no Easter or Christmas services, none, nada, zilch, zero.) Added to this is another high percentage of Americans who have had a brush with Christian truth but it didn't take. (VBS, camps, conferences, television evangelism) Added together it makes a majority of our American population. These percentages place the USA as one of the top six most needy mission fields in the world. (Some say it is either 3rd or 4th) The life of Andrew was that of a person found to find others.

- He had three qualities needed in people who bring others to Jesus.
- He was deeply convinced of his own personal need of Jesus.
- His heart had been prepared by the preaching of John, the baptizer.

Still there was something missing. John kept talking of someone whose baptism was more potent. One day as Andrew was listening,

John pointed to Jesus, "Here he is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

It was like the Spirit of Jesus captured him and he left the famous preacher in the wilderness to follow Jesus. After spending a short time with Jesus he was convinced that Jesus would care for his soul and meet his deepest needs.

I am so glad Andrew didn't wait. He didn't delay. Matters of the soul and eternity deserve immediate attention. For we do not know of tomorrow. What a gamble to put off that which is available right now. Today is the day of salvation. One day of unbelief is not only a day of jeopardizing our place in heaven, but a day in which our heart may become indifferent and eventually the warm movement of God's spirit cooled. But even more important it is one less day to serve in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Not only was Andrew quick to catch on, but he:

I. BEGAN IMMEDIATELY TO SHARE HIS FAITH--HE BEGAN IN THE RIGHT PLACE. He went directly to his older brother Peter. He lived with him. He worked with him. It was like Rehab whose life is described in the book of Joshua. (2:12) She interceded for her loved ones. Read the text.

II. Winning our own family member can be a real challenge. Even though the brothers and sisters of Jesus watched the daily life of Jesus which was without sin, they didn't believe until His resurrection.

III. What find it was to direct Peter to Jesus. William Temple says of it in these words. "As great a service to the church as ever a man did." Then he expands on it. He says, "A certain king wanted to build a palace. His workmen dug deep to find a firm foundation. After two lengthy spells of digging, soundings were taken, but only morass (bog-like condition) was found. At length however, they struck rock (petra) and the king said, "Now I can make a beginning." When Jesus looked intensely into Peter's face, he said, "Now we can begin to build a church." Matthew 16:18

IV. Because Andrew was deeply convinced of his own need for Jesus and urgent in sharing that experience with his big brother, he grew in his reputation as a finder of others. John 6:8-9 and John 12:20. How about joining the Andrew Club? You'll be surprised at the joy it will

bring you. The communicator will find a strong example in this be researching the conversion of Eugenia Price.

Invitation: The communicator might use this message to invite people to attend a six week witnessing class that begins in a couple of weeks. Or ask people to come and covenant with the Lord to become more intentional in their efforts to find others. Then have a special prayer for them.