

## CONNECTED TO JESUS

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Mike Gilland

John 1:35-42

### KEY SENTENCE:

Andrew's responsiveness as a disciple - first of John the Baptist, then of Jesus - is exemplary for us and for all Christians as we seek to connect with Christ and with each other.

### INTRODUCTION:

Andrew is not the name that we think of first in the list of "key disciples." That list would usually include Peter, James, or John. Yet...his role was significant in the beginning, as he was instrumental in the early initial calling of the disciples.

## I. CONNECTED TO JOHN THE BAPTIST

Andrew is introduced first as a disciple of John the Baptist.

John was standing with two men...(Andrew was one of them). And when Andrew and his friend heard John say the words, "Behold the Lamb of God," they left immediately and began following Jesus.

All accounts point to a permanent ending of the discipleship by John the Baptist – this discernment and revelation of the Lamb of God in Andrew's life was truly a life-changing event, and his loyalties changed in reflection to seeing Jesus.

## II. CONNECTED TO JESUS

And so it began. Jesus would soon have constant company as He walked along.

**38** *Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?"*

Jesus may have been walking ahead of Andrew...but He wasn't unaware of Andrew's following. In fact, Jesus leans in toward THEM...by turning around, and addressing them.

"What are you seeking?" This question is a worthy question for ANY Christian.

- What do I expect out of following Jesus?
- What is it that I really want?
- What are my reasons for following Him?
- Is it Christ only that I seek – His will, His heart?

"Those that follow Christ, and yet seek the world, or themselves, or the praise of men, deceive themselves. "What seek we in seeking Christ? Do we seek a teacher, ruler, and reconciler? In following Christ, do we seek the favour of God and eternal life?" If our eye be single in this, we are full of light."

~ Matthew Henry

Andrew answers Jesus' question...with a question! "*Rabbi*" (which means Teacher), "*where are you staying?*"

Those who know Jesus as MASTER won't be satisfied with an occasional glance, or a seasonal communion. No...our souls become thirsty for His presence.

JESUS ANSWERS...

Jesus gave them the best possible answer. "Come...and you WILL see."

"At first, they were only seeking where he was staying. Then because they came to him and spent time with him, they saw. The point is that if you come to Jesus, you see. You see spiritual reality. You see the key that unlocks the ultimate meaning of all things. This is the glory of the Son of God. This is the grace we receive."

~ John Piper

### III. CONNECTING TO OTHERS

The first thing that learn that Andrew did was to go, and share the news with his brother, his fellow fishing partner...Simon.

NOTICE THESE FACTS FROM THIS VERSE:

1. He FIRST found his own brother...
2. Notice Andrew's humility. He doesn't say, "I have found him."
3. Andrew speaks of Jesus to Simon, using a term that up to now had not been attributed to Jesus by John the Baptist.

Andrew did more than just tell Simon...He personally walked Simon to Jesus.

Peter would go on to be the holder of the keys to the Kingdom...but it was Andrew that had the privilege of connecting his brother to Jesus. And, it was Andrew that would become the type for the Acts 1 disciples of whom Jesus said, "you will be my witnesses."

APPLICATION:

1. Just as Andrew and the other disciple took the step to leave John the Baptist and follow Jesus, so we are take the step of faith into following the Lord. Jesus is also saying to us, "deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow me..."
2. Jesus is aware of our steps – in fact, He is drawing us to take those steps! No man comes to the Father – unless the Father draws them near!!! (John 14:6).
3. God wants us to recognize the depth of truth found in Jesus, and to take to heart that He is our "rabbi". The writer to Hebrews said:
4. Our invitation to come and abide in Jesus is not to be wasted on just ourselves...He wants us to connect to others, to share our faith with family members, friends, and those in the highways and byways...compelling them to come to the Lord.