

## The Twelve Apostles

### Lesson 1

#### Study Notes.

#### Andrew: The Apostle Who Shared Christ Personally"

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Text: John 1:35-42.

*Introduction: As we begin our study of the twelve apostles there is one thing that stands out; that is our Lord does not choose those who stand out the most in the world, but those who often are least likely to succeed. Here's what the Bible has to say of our calling; "1Corinthians 1:26-29. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.*

Christ's calling of the twelve was certainly not based on prudential reasons, otherwise the band would not have included a publican, much less an Iscariot. In this strange disregard of worldly wisdom there is manifested in opposite directions the influence of Divine wisdom in developing faith and detecting hypocrisy. Suppose the Master had made up His first church out of cultured, rich, rare and elevated nature - those who never would have doubted what He said, or flinched from peril, or acted on the lower motive when a higher was possible. How much we should have lost to us, the apostles were not exceptional men, strangers to our weaknesses, temptations and difficulties. Jesus chose twelve typical representative men, and as we study their personalities, we instinctively know them as bone of our bone. (Locklear)

An understanding of the term apostle prepares us for a consideration of the function of one known as such. The word is from the Greek, "apo-stolos," meaning a messenger and is derived from the Greek "apostello," stallein implying to send. Stello means to dispatch on an expedition, to set out on a journey. Apo means "away from," so that apo-stello means to send forth, or away, usually on some mission; and the apostolos is the one sent.

Twelve is the number suggesting governmental \_\_\_\_\_, so it is no accident that Jesus selected such number.

#### The Man Andrew.

Andrew is the \_\_\_\_\_ know of the four disciples in the lead group. Although he was a member of that dominant foursome, Andrew ordinarily is left very much in the \_\_\_\_\_. Andrew was the first of all the disciples to be called (John 1:35-40).

Andrew, whose name means " \_\_\_\_\_," was a manly man, as were the rough and hardy fishermen of his time.

#### I. A Disciple of John the Baptist.

We first meet Andrew not in Galilee, where he lived, but at Bethabara beyond Jordan, some \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ miles from his home. John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing there, and as a Jew, Andrew, with a mind immersed in Old Testament prophecies, was looking for daybreak through the gloom.

## II. A Convert of the Lamb of God. John 1:35-40.

What becomes apparent in Andrew's life was that he knew for sure that Jesus was the \_\_\_\_\_. It is for certain we can never be effective in leading other to Christ if we have not had a personal experience with Christ ourselves.

## III. An Ardent Fisher of Souls.

An evangelist is but a beggar telling another beggar where to get \_\_\_\_\_.

What is the name of the man who lead Dwight L. Moody to Christ? \_\_\_\_\_.

## IV. An Apostle of Christ.

We note in Matthew 4:18-20, that although Andrew was the first to come to Jesus; his name will follow Peter's now through the rest of Scripture. Do you think Andrew is happy being mentioned second to Peter? \_\_\_\_\_.

### A. *The Seeking Greeks.*

Does Andrew hesitate to introduce the Greeks to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

### B. *The miraculous feeding.*

Who points out the lad with the five barley loaves and two small fishes? \_\_\_\_\_

### C. *The times and the seasons.*

Do you think Andrew had a desire to learn of deeper truths that Jesus taught them? \_\_\_\_\_

### D. *The Upper Room.*

Is the upper room account the last mention of Andrew in New Testament history? \_\_\_\_\_

### Conclusion: Conclusion:

The Bible does not record what happened to Andrew after Pentecost. Whatever role he played in early church history, he remained behind the scenes. Tradition says he took the gospel north. Eusebius, the ancient church historian, says Andrew went as far as Scythia. (That's why Andrew is the patron saint of Russia. He is also the patron saint of Scotland.) He was ultimately crucified in Achaia, which is in southern Greece, near Athens. One account says he led the wife of a provincial Roman governor to Christ, and that infuriated her husband. He demanded that his wife recant her devotion to Jesus Christ and she refused. So, the governor had Andrew crucified.

By the governor's orders, those who crucified him lashed him to the cross instead of nailing him, in order to prolong his sufferings. By most accounts, he hung on the cross for two days, exhorting passersby to turn to Christ for salvation.