

The Impact of One

John 1:35 – 42

I. Intro

A. At crucifixion of Jesus: Luke 23:49 (NIV)

49 But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

B. **Question:** Who were some of those specifically?

i. Matthew 27:56 (NIV)

56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses (sons of Alphaeus), and the mother of Zebedee's sons (James and John).

ii. Mark 15:40 (NIV)

40 Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses (sons of Alphaeus), and Salome (wife of Zebedee, mother of James and John).

iii. John 19:25-27 (NIV)

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister (possibly Salome), Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son,"

27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

C. Notice, not all of 12 disciples mentioned; Matthew 26:56 (NIV)

56 ... all the disciples deserted him and fled.

i. **Question:** Were any of them there? Were they standing some distance away? What about Jesus' disciples He was closest to – Peter, James, and John? What about Andrew?

D. Andrew, one disciple that's not mentioned much in scripture – only mentioned 9 times in NT; Andrew, Peter's brother, lived most of his life in the shadow of his brother

E. If not for Andrew, Peter may never have been saved; if Peter had never been saved someone else would have preached the sermon at Pentecost, we'd be missing two books in our NT – 1 and 2 Peter; someone else would've had to bring the message of the Gospel to Jews

F. Andrew ordinarily lived his life in the background; but, Andrew was "one" mostly obscure person who's passion for bringing others to Christ had a major impact on kingdom of Christ

G. **READ John 1:35 – 42**

H. 3 things to know about Andrew, just one person, and his passion for souls of people

II. 1 – Saw Value of Individuals

- A. Brought his own brother first to Jesus; he brought a little boy who only had 5 loaves of bread and two fish to Jesus
- B. Known for bring individuals to Christ, not crowds of people
- C. Most people don't come to know Christ in a setting of crowds of people; they come because of influence of another individual person
- D. All those who came to Christ because of Peter's ministry/sermons began with Andrew; Andrew brought one – Peter, Peter brought thousands
- E. Last week asked how many heard name N.W. Pridgen – one who invited Johnny Hunt to church over 40 years ago; **Question:** How many know the name Edward Kimball? Kimball went to Boston shoe store where a young 18 year old man was working, led the young man to Christ – young man's name, D.L. Moody – great evangelistic preachers of 19th century
- F. Story about D.L. Moody early in his ministry: A woman came to him one day after a service he had preached at and said, "As much as you slaughter the King's English, you ought to never go in the pulpit again." It discouraged him. He didn't know what to do and he said he felt like God told him this. He said to her, "Ma'am, pray for me. I want to do better, and I'm working to try to get better at the English language, but what I'm trying to do is give the gospel all I can, with all I know, so that all who can hear maybe will come." Then he turned to her and said, "Ma'am, what are you doing with what you have?"
- G. **Questions:** How do you see individual people you encounter each and every day in community, workplace, school? Do you see them as God does, do you see them as people who need Jesus?
- H. **Question:** What are you doing with what you have?

III. 2 – Saw Value of Insignificant Gifts

- A. **READ John 6:4 – 9**
 - i. Even though 5 loaves and 2 fish seemed insignificant for such a large crowd, Andrew didn't overlook them; in the Lord's hands Andrew could see the possibility of a little bit of food being used for great thing
 - ii. BTW, don't forget there were 12 baskets full left over when Jesus got done
- B. **READ Luke 21:1 – 4**
 - i. God doesn't care about the size of the gift, He only cares about the heart of the giver giving the gift; it's about the sacrificial faithfulness of the giver; God is not limited by size
 - ii. God can take what might seem insignificant and multiply and use it to accomplish monumental things; it's not the size of the gift but it's the greatness of God
- C. Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

IV. **3 - Saw the Value of Inconspicuous Service**

- A. Definition *inconspicuous* – not noticed, not seen
- B. Paul in letter Philippians speaks of motivation behind some preaching the Gospel – did it for recognition, did it out of envy and jealousy of Paul's ministry; **Question:** Know what Paul said about that? At least the Gospel's being preached no matter what the motivation behind it is
- C. Many who serve, preach, sing – whatever it is they do in the church – because they want to be seen, recognized, praised because that makes them feel like what they're doing is worthwhile when people notice – let's just call it what it is, that's pride
- D. Thank God for the many people now, and in the past, who have served this church just out of the goodness of their heart in the background, not looking for any recognition or praise, not so they'll be noticed, but just simply serving from a heart of humility because without those people very little would get done
- E. Andrew is the picture of all those who labor quietly in humble places
- F. Andrew is the picture of all those because of their passion and desire for lost souls focus on bringing just one to Christ and letting God do the multiplying
- G. Andrew never preached to multitudes or founded any new churches; but, Andrew was rewarded and honored by His Lord just as much

V. Close

- A. When it comes to bringing people to Christ: it's not about how many; it's not about talent, ability, or skill; it's just about your heart; that was Andrew
- B. **Question:** Can't we all just be a little more like Andrew?