

THE TWELVE (3)

Introduces People to Jesus

A. Introduction

1. Who were the Twelve?

The Twelve were men who were called to believe in Jesus and to follow Him.

The Twelve were men who were chosen from a larger group of disciples to be apostles and were given what they needed to do this role.

2. Who were the Twelve?

There are four lists of the men Jesus called and chose in the New Testament.

Matthew 10:2-4	Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:14-16	Acts 1:13
Peter	Peter	Peter	Peter
Andrew	James	Andrew	John
James	John	James	James
John	Andrew	John	Andrew
Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip
Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
Thomas	Matthew	Matthew	Bartholomew
Matthew	Thomas	Thomas	Matthew
James (son of Alphaeus)	James (son of Alphaeus)	James (son of Alphaeus)	James (son of Alphaeus)
Thaddaeus	Thaddaeus	Simon	Simon
Simon	Simon	Judas (son of James)	Judas (son of James)
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	

In all four lists the same twelve men are named (Judas Iscariot is absent from the list in Acts).

Peter is always first – he was the leader and spokesman for the Twelve.

The Twelve are arranged in three groups of four:

Group 1 – Peter, Andrew, James and John.

Group 2 – Philip, Bartholomew (also known as Nathaniel), Matthew and Thomas.

Group 3 – James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas the son of James and Judas Iscariot.

B. Meet Andrew

1. Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter.

“These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew.” (Matthew 10:2)

“Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up.” (John 6:8)

He was from a little fishing town on the north coast of the Sea of Galilee called Bethsaida.

“Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.” (John 1:44)

He was living in Capernaum in the family home.

“They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach... As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.” (Mark 1:21, 29)

He was working as a fisherman.

"As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen." (Mark 1:16)

2. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist.

"The next day John was there again with two of his disciples... Andrew was one of the two who heard what John had said." (John 1:35, 40)

He heard John the Baptist announce that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

"When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus." (John 1:36-37)

He went from following John to following Jesus.

3. Andrew was an apostle of Jesus.

He was the first of the Twelve to meet Jesus.

"Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus." (John 1:40)

He was called by Jesus to follow Him.

"As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fisherman. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him." (Mark 1:16-18)

He was chosen by Jesus to be one of His official representatives.

"Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve- designating them apostles - that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons. These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James son of Zebedee and his brother; Andrew." (Mark 3:13-18)

4. What do we learn from Andrew about what it means to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Disciples of Jesus introduce people to Jesus.

C. Andrew was taught to introduce people to Jesus

1. By John the Baptist's example.

John the Baptist prepared Andrew to meet Jesus.

"John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" (John 1:15)

"John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" (John 1:23)

"I baptise with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." (John 1:26-27)

John the Baptist introduced Andrew to Jesus.

"The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus." (John 1:35-37)

He learnt from John the Baptist that the most important thing he could do was not to make a name for himself, but to bring people to Jesus.

“He must become greater; I must become less.” (John 3:30)

2. By Jesus’ teaching.

Jesus taught Andrew to be a fisher of men.

“As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him.” (Matthew 4:18-19)

Jesus taught Andrew that the gospel must be preached to all nations.

“As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus, “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?” ... “You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.” (Mark 13:1-4, 10)

D. Andrew introduces people to Jesus

1. His brother.

After Andrew met Jesus, he introduced his brother to Jesus.

“Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.” (John 1:40-42)

It was the very first thing he did.

It was the very best thing he could do – this news was too good to keep to himself.

Andrew was a fisher of men before Jesus taught him to be one.

2. A little boy.

When Jesus fed the five thousand, as the other disciples were overwhelmed by the size of the need, it was Andrew who brought the boy with the five loaves and two small fish to Him.

“When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up. “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.” (John 6:5-11)

It was Andrew who had confidence in what Christ could do.

3. A group of Greeks.

Some Greeks wanted to be introduced to Jesus.

Philip was unsure what to do.

It was Andrew who brought them to Jesus along with Philip.

"Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, 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." (John 12:20-24)

Andrew obeyed the command to make disciples of all nations before Jesus gave it.

He knew that the gospel was for everyone, not just for Jews.

E. Andrew never stopped introducing people to Jesus

1. Tradition said Andrew took the gospel north as far as Scythia.

"Such was the condition of the Jews. Meanwhile the holy apostles and disciples of our Saviour were dispersed throughout the world. Parthia, according to tradition, was allotted to Thomas as his field of labour, Scythia to Andrew, and Asia to John, who, after he had lived some time there, died at Ephesus. Peter appears to have preached in Pontus, Galatia, Bithynia, Cappadocia, and Asia to the Jews of the dispersion. And at last, having come to Rome, he was crucified head-downwards; for he had requested that he might suffer in this way. What do we need to say concerning Paul, who preached the Gospel of Christ from Jerusalem to Illyricum, and afterwards suffered martyrdom in Rome under Nero? These facts are related by Origen in the third volume of his Commentary on Genesis." (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History III.I)

2. At some point he took the gospel to Achaia in southern Greece and it was here that he was martyred.

He was crucified on an X-shaped cross.

Instead of being nailed to the cross, he was bound to the cross in order to increase his suffering.

Most accounts say he hung on the cross for two days where he exhorted those who passed by to turn to Christ and be saved.

He sought to introduce people to Jesus until the very end.

F. A disciple of Jesus introduces people to Jesus

1. We need to be taught to introduce people to Jesus.

2. We need to introduce people to Jesus.

We do this by telling people directly about the Lord Jesus or by taking them to others who will tell them about Jesus.

We must never stop introducing people to Jesus.