

'Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor'

(Luke 6:12-16)

Seeing the Disciples through the Lens of Grace

1) Andrew and Peter

✓ **Jesus chose 12 uneducated, common men to be his disciples. Not one of them was a scholar or rabbi**

✓ **They were ordinary people, just like you and I. That's how God has always worked. God works through the humble**

✓ **They had their flaws, faults and failings. But they were His disciples. And He transformed them by His grace**

✓ **They were each unique individuals with different backgrounds, personalities, etc.**

✓ **Then He sent them to lay the foundation of the Church and to take the gospel to the nations**

Andrew

- ✓ **Peter and Andrew were brothers, born in Bethsaida, and later settled in Capernaum**
- ✓ **They were fishermen and worked alongside James and John**
- ✓ **Andrew was the first disciple of Jesus. He previously followed of John the Baptist**
- ✓ **His immediate response was to find his brother Simon Peter and bring him to Jesus**
- ✓ **This, more than anything, marked his characteristic role as one who brings others to Christ**

- ✓ **Andrew led Peter to Christ, then stepped into the background as his boisterous brother became a leader among the apostles and in the early church**
- ✓ **He was content with a secondary role and was often overshadowed by Peter**
- ✓ **He worked quietly in the background and focused on individuals rather than crowds**
- ✓ **Each time Andrew is mentioned in the Gospel of John, he is bringing someone to Jesus (see Jn.6:8; 12:22)**

✓ **Andrew's pattern of bringing others to Jesus presents a picture of Jesus' model of one-on-one discipleship. Through the centuries, this is how most people come to faith in Jesus Christ**

✓ **We can thank Andrew for Peter, and Barnabas for Paul, etc. The story of the Church can be described as chains of discipleship which connect people to Jesus – not a preacher or ministry**

✓ **Church tradition records that Andrew took the gospel to Scythia (modern Ukraine/Russia), Greece, Turkey, along the coast of the Black Sea and was eventually martyred in Patras, Greece on an X-shaped cross**

Peter

- ✓ **Peter was born into a fishing family. He later moved to Capernaum, where he operated a successful fishing business with his brother and James and John. He was married**
- ✓ **Peter was a member of Jesus' inner circle along with James and John. These three alone were given the privileges the others did not receive**
- ✓ **Whenever the disciples are listed, Peter's name is always first. Also, his name is mentioned more times than any other disciple, and he is often identified as the leader of the apostles due to his outspoken and assertive nature**

- ✓ **When Andrew introduced Simon to Jesus, He renamed him 'Cephas', an Aramaic word meaning 'rock.' The Greek word for rock is 'Petros' (Peter). He was anything but a rock, but his renaming was a prophecy, a declaration of the work of grace God was going to do in his life**
- ✓ **There are countless examples of his impulsive and rash nature - often speaking and acting without thinking. He was usually first to speak, even contradicting Jesus on some occasions. His cognitive processes were not always well thought through. If it came to his mind, he just said it**

Examples:

- ❑ **Walking on water**
- ❑ **Striking the High priest's servant with a sword**
- ❑ **Saying he would never deny Jesus**
- ❑ **Trying to prevent Jesus from going to the cross**
- ❑ **Offering to build 3 tabernacles on the Mount of Transfiguration**
- ❑ **Refusing Jesus to wash his feet**

- ✓ But his impulsiveness also revealed his passion and zeal for the Lord. E.g. It was Peter that said, '*nevertheless at your word...*' after Jesus had used their boat for fishing. He was the only one that walked on water. He was the first to get the revelation of the deity of Christ, '*You are the Christ the Son of the living God*'
- ✓ His transformation began with his greatest crash. After denying the Lord he was lovingly restored and recommissioned on a solid foundation (Luke 22:31-32)
- ✓ Jesus was faithful in keeping His disciples. He is our High Priest and will keep us too, (John 6:37; 10:28-29)

- ✓ **The Book of Acts reveals Peter's as a bold leader of the Church: On the Day of Pentecost he led 3,000 people to faith in a single day. As Jesus promised, he was taken from being a fisherman to a fisher of men**
- ✓ **He had a miraculous ministry: He healed a lame man, raised Tabitha from the dead, his shadow brought healing to the sick, he was delivered from prison by an angel**
- ✓ **His assignment was to bring the gospel to the circumcised. He traveled as far as Babylon evangelizing among the Jews, and went on to establish churches throughout Asia Minor**

His doctrinal contribution:

- ✓ **He received a vision about clean and unclean foods, leading to the Gentile inclusion into the Church, and he defended the gospel of grace against legalism at Jerusalem Council**
- ✓ **He wrote 1 Peter to encourage persecuted Christians, and 2 Peter, refuting false teaching. He was likely the source for Mark's Gospel through his relationship with John Mark**

- ✓ **Paul mentions Peter, James, and John (Jesus' inner circle) as pillars of the church... (see Galatians 2:6–9)**
- ✓ **It is said that when Peter was to be killed he requested to be crucified upside down because he did not feel worthy to be crucified the same way as Jesus**
- ✓ **Peter's name is mentioned far more in the New Testament than any other of the disciples**