

October 24th and 25th THE DISCIPLINE OF WITNESS

“Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ).” **JOHN 1:38-41**

“Every day they pass me by, I can see it in their eyes; empty people filled with care, headed who knows where. On they go through private pain, living fear to fear. Laughter hides the silent cries, only Jesus hears. People need the Lord. At the end of broken dreams, He’s the open door.” Greg Nelson and Phill McHugh really know how to pack a punch with these lyrics! They’ve been sung many times in churches for the past several decades. They pack a punch because they bring truth to our sometimes-deaf ears and blind eyes. We’ve often become numb to the people that we encounter in our world. People that we share offices with, practice fields with, or boroughs with. What does God say to us today as His men?

We’ve covered a lot of space these past weekends as we unpacked what it means to “discipline ourselves for godliness”. In this last devotion on the topic of discipline, we move to our Christian witness. We can be challenged in this by looking no further than Peter...actually I mean Andrew (Peter’s lesser-known brother). Everyone wants to talk about Peter. And why not? Peter is usually the one who speaks first and gives a voice to whatever everyone else is thinking (but is afraid to say out loud). Peter gives the first Christian sermon in Acts. Is it any surprise? But there’s a reason that Peter came to Jesus in the first place. It was because his brother Andrew brought him. Let’s go back to John 1 to see what we can uncover.

Andrew is excited that he found Jesus. They had been looking for the Messiah and hoping that He would come soon to bring His kingdom. Well, now the King has arrived! Andrew can’t contain his excitement. What does he do with his excitement? He introduces his brother Peter to Jesus. We find this description in John 1: “He first found his own brother Simon...”. This is Andrew’s first course of action—let his brother know that the King was here.

Men, what does God teach us here through Andrew’s example? First, if you did a quick search on the internet for how Andrew is mentioned in the Bible, you’d find that most often he is described as Simon Peter’s brother. What does this matter to us? Andrew was just an ordinary man who found what he was looking for and was determined to share the good news with the ones that he loved. Look at the records of church history and you won’t find definitive answers on the impact of Andrew. You’ll find so much more about his brother Peter. However, we find hope in Andrew. You see, we are more alike Andrew than we first realize. We aren’t famous either. We don’t draw autograph seekers when we walk down the street. But we do have a glorious mission that our King has given us: to share the message of Jesus. Our call is to introduce people to the God that we were also introduced to when we believed. You don’t have to have special words. You don’t have to have specific education. You just have to be intentional. You have to be disciplined to introduce people to Jesus.

A final challenge with Andrew is to be purposeful with the relationships that you already have. Andrew doesn’t go and share the message with a stranger. Instead, he shares it with a family member. Men, this can also encourage us. We’re called to share with anyone we encounter. There’s no denying that. However, why not start with someone that loves you already? Spend time with the people that God has already given you. Sure, some (or all) of your family may already know Jesus as Savior, but maybe they struggle to embrace Jesus. This is where you come in. Point them

to how great Jesus is...just like Andrew. Men, it's our time to be intentional. How will you be a faithful witness today?

Spend some time praying for those in your circle of influence to embrace Jesus even more today. Ask him for grace to show people the way to Jesus.

For Further Reading: Romans 10:11-15