5th Sunday after Trinity
1st in Series on the Twelve Apostles
Rolling Meadows - 1964

Rev. Carl F. Thrun

IN NOMINE JESU

St. John 1: 35-42 (RSV) The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followe Jesus. Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek? And they said to Him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." 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 hea Jesus speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah (which means Christ He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means rock.)

ANDREW

Andrew has the distinction of holding down the title of First-Called. H was the first of the Twelve whom Jesus called, and this is no small honor. The whole story of his life, as we find it in the sacred Record, revolves around three incidents, in each of which he brings someone to Jesus. First it was Peter, his brother. John, called the Baptizer, had pointed to Jesus and said as though it were the greatest moment of his life: Behold the Lamb of God. Andrew and his friend heard John, and they believed, and without hesitation they followed Jesus and spent the day with Him. Can you begin to grasp, even in a little way, the great excitement and thrill of it all? To us it is self-evident that Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Messiah, the Savior of the world. Most of us have heard it since were were old enough to be told the meaning of Christmas. With Andrew it was different. Suddenly the realization burst upon him that he was standing befor the promised Messiah - He of whom the prophets had spoken, He for whom Israel had been waiting for more than 2000 years, the Seed of Abraham, the Sun of Righteousness, the Prince of Peace, the Desire of Nations, the Dayspring from on high. Millions have believed in the centuries since - millions of every nation and tribe and tongue and people; They, too, found in Jesus of Nazareth the Messiah, the Chris of God, the Redeemer of the world. But Andrew, humble Galilean fisherman, was the first of them all.

To know Christ is to love Him; to love Christ is to serve Him! Andrew could not keep what he had found to himself. He told his brother, Simon Peter, We have found the Messiah! - And we are told, He brought him to Jesus. That must have taken some doing! Even though they were brothers, Andrew and Peter were not at all

alike. Peter was impetuous - Andrew was quiet and reserved; Peter sought the lime light - Andrew kept himself in the background; Peter was a born leader, headstrong determined, sure of himself - Andrew was content to be a follower and helper. Pet wasn't the sort of man others could easily command. We might well imagine Peter responding to his brother: So you've found the Messiah - you, of all people, my quiet little brother, have found Him in a crowd at the river bank, and in a dismal rooming house! - You're out of your mind! No matter what the circumstances were, Andrew spoke to his brother with a joy in his voice and a fervor in his soul that could not be denied, and he brought Peter to Jesus. Before long Peter became the great one among the Twelve, their leader, their spokesman - and Andrew had to content himself with what someone has aptly called the talents of the second fiddle. No matter! Andrew was more than satisfied. God used ~~his brother~~ Peter as His instrumen on Pentecost to bring 3000 people to Jesus with a single sermon - But Andrew had brought Peter to Jesus - and that was enough.

Is there a brother, a wife or husband, a son or daughter, a father or mother, in our own family who does not know Jesus? Have we dared to speak to them about life and death, about God and eternity, about the Savior and His Church, about heaven and hell? Some of us would rather give a $100.00 to foreign missions than to talk to a brother or sister about the eternal destiny of their soul. Andrew was not the sort of man who was easily dissuaded: He brought his brother to Jesus. He would not give up until Peter came to see for himself.

There came a day, later on, when the people were hungry - more than 5000 of them - in a desert place, and they had no food. The disciples had a practical solution to the problem: Send them away. Again it was Andrew who came forward, always the helpful disciple: There is a boy here, he reported, who brought his lunch - 5 barley loaves and two small fish - a handful of buns and a couple of sardines - not as much as one of our own boys ~~would~~ will bring to the picnic this afternoon. Andrew himself was not quite sure how that would help, but he brought the boy with his lunch to Jesus - and Jesus fed the whole crowd with that boy's lunch. Andrew was always helping, often far better than he knew.

How often have we said with Andrew, There is a boy here, and have done something about it? Andrew discovered something that we so often fail to see - th hidden resources of a child. There is a boy here, the father ought to say to himself, as he looks around in his own home - there is a boy here, adopting my traits of character, learning to walk in my ways, beginning to live the kind of life that I am holding before him, catching my point of view, my manner of speech, my attitu toward God and religion - and the father ought to bring that boy to his Savior. There is a boy here, the Sunday School teacher ought to say to herself - there is a boy here who will soon be a man. I must help him, teach him, guide him, pray fo him, lead him to Christ. The great men of the future are the boys of today, and today it lies within our power to point them toward the higher things of life. There is no greater challenge within the Church, the community, or the whole, wide world today than youth work - bringing young people to Jesus, and helping them to face the issues of life in Christ, and with Christ, and through Christ!

Finally, Andrew introduced a group of strangers to Jesus. There were Greeks -,foreigners - to the Jews, who had heard about this prophet of Galilee and wanted to meet Him. They went first to Philip and said, Sir, we wish to see Jesus Philip wasn't so sure it was a good idea. After all, these people were Gentiles - outsiders. So he talked it over with Andrew. Andrew was perfectly willing to bri these foreigners into the presence of Christ. He knew that God is no respecter of persons, or nation or of color. In a sense he was the first foreign missionary of the Christian Chruch. I wonder what he would think of the cold unconcern with which so many of us contemplate the pagan world today, how little we really care about the cause of missions. Only God knows how the Christian Church of today look to an impatient world. Where is our witness that all people - no matter who they are - are created and redeemed human beings whom Christ loves? St. Augustine, Birmingham, Maryland, Mississippi, Chicago - these are the burning ussues of our time - and the Church, in only too many cases, is content to sit and stutter. The pity is that so many still do not see how relevant the Gospel is to the problems

of human rights. During our Northern Illinois District Convention 300 callers went out into 12 inner city congregations and witnessed to the high rise apartment dwellers as well as the slum housing people. Over 4000 calls were made. Over 1500 children were found to be prospective Sunday School or baptism prospects. Over 1000 adults were found to be proppects for the Church - all in one afternoon. 28000 negroes live in a 2 mile by 2 block area - and we can I dare say sit here this morning - for the most part - comfortably and complacently indifferent. If Andrew were to visit us today, would he have some questions to ask about our evangelism and offerings for missions? Would he have some questions to ask about the way we welcome outsiders into our congregation and give them a practical demonstration of Christian love - bringing them closer, perhaps closer than they have ever been before, to the loving heart of Jesus?

Tradition has it that Andrew suffered martyrdom for his Savior, and was crucified on an X-shaped Cross. To make his death the more lingering he was fastened to the cross with cords instead of the customary nails. As he lingered on the cross for two days he preached to the people, praising God, exhorting his listeners to repentance and faith - still bringing others to Jesus! There is a painting, by the great Murillo, of Andrew's martyrdom. At one side the artist added the figure of a little boy, his face turned away as if he could not bear the terrible sight, tears streaming down his cheeks. It was the boy of the 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish.

It is said that St. Francis of Assisi had a disciple by the name of Juniper, of whom he said, Oh, for a forest of such Junipers. I am sure that many a pastor of today has said, Let me have a church of Andrews - of simple, loving people ~~men~~, content to bring others to Jesus. May God so richly bless our congregation.

Amen.