

Pass it On!

John 1: 35-42

Today has been set aside to worship our Lord and honor the men of our church. I am truly thankful for the men who are committed to the Lord and willing to serve in various positions within the church. We are blessed of the Lord to have young men, middle aged, and senior adult men in regular attendance here at Fellowship.

Society has proven that male leadership is essential to its vitality, and we know that God commands the men to assume the leadership role within the home and the church. When men are absent or fail to uphold their responsibilities, decline and weakness are far too often a reality. I appreciate the men of Fellowship who embrace their God given responsibilities and work together for the good of the church and glory of God.

As I pondered what to share today, I was reminded of the need for godly men to influence our society and culture. We need those who are committed to the Lord to share their faith and lead the next generation in service. We have received much, and we must ensure that we pass on what we have been given, seeking to enable the next generation to continue the work.

In ancient Corinth there used to be staged the Isthmian Games, the forerunner of the modern Olympics. There were many events, but the one which received the most attention was the relay race. The competitors lined up side by side at the starting line, each bearing a torch. In the distance waited still another line, of men, and still farther on other lines.

When the signal was given, the men started to run, bearing their lighted torches. When a runner reached his partner in the next line he would pass on his light, and so on from man to man until the finish line was reached. With the famous relay race in mind, the Greeks coined a phrase: "Let those who have the light pass it on."¹

May we be willing to pass the light on to those who need it? In our text this morning we find such an example. We discover one who had received much and was concerned with others who were yet to meet Christ. I want to examine the [experiences](#) revealed in this passage as we consider the challenge to: [Pass it On!](#)

I. The Integrity of a Servant (35-39) – It is impossible to consider Peter's conversion without recognizing the role that Andrew played in his life. Peter's life was greatly impacted by those around him. Andrew was a man of integrity. As I read this passage, I was reminded of the need to surround ourselves with godly people. Good people can and do have a positive impact on our lives. We need to possess the integrity Andrew did. We discover first:

A. Andrew's Discipline (35) – *Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;*

Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. He was already seeking the Lord and following the ministry of John. There is no mention of Peter being a disciple of John, but he had a brother who sought to serve the Lord.

- I praise the Lord for those who were obedient unto the Lord even before I had a desire to know Him. Aren't you glad for those in your life who were serving the Lord even before you were saved? They stepped out in faith and served the Lord, even when others were not.

B. Andrew's Discernment (36-37) – *And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!* [37] *And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.* No doubt Andrew had heard John speak of the Messiah, the One whom God had promised, but he had never met Him. This was the day that his life would be changed. As John declared Jesus to be the Lamb of God, Andrew decided to follow Him.

- There is no doubt that the Spirit revealed this truth unto Andrew, but he was living in such a way as to recognize the Lord. Thank God for those who were sensitive to the voice of God and had enough wisdom to seek Him. Had it not been for those who loved me having a relationship with Christ I likely would've never been saved. Where would you be had someone not recognized Jesus?

C. Andrew's Devotion (38-39) – *Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?* [39] *He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.* Simply seeing the Lord wasn't enough for Andrew. He was determined to develop a personal relationship with Christ. He followed Him seeking to know more of Him. He decided to leave the past behind and seek the ways of God. He had followed John, but he had been introduced to One greater than John.

- So it is with us; we must develop a hunger for the ways of God. We must be willing to forsake the old paths of sin for a glorious new journey with the Lord. When you meet the Lord He will change your desire.
- Andrew wanted more than a passing glimpse of the Lord; he wanted a personal relationship with Him. He wanted to be in the presence of the Master. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of God's people were devoted to Him with a genuine desire to be near to Him?

I. The Integrity of a Servant (35-39)

II. The Influence of a Sibling (41-42) – These verses reveal how Andrew influenced the life of Peter. Notice:

A. He was Concerned (41a) – [He first findeth his own brother Simon](#). After meeting the Lord Andrew had one concern, his brother Peter. The very first person he sought to tell about the Messiah was his brother. This was much too important to keep to himself. He had met the Lord and he wanted Peter to meet Him as well.

- Peter benefited from the concern of Andrew. Are we willing to develop that same type of concern? Are we willing to seek out those who have never met the Lord? I'm sure that we all have those who are close to us who have never met the Lord. May we see them as Christ did and have a burden for them?

B. He was Confident (41b) – [He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ](#). I can imagine Andrew coming to Peter with an excitement he had never possessed before; [Peter, we have found the Messiah](#). Andrew wasn't skeptical about what he had heard or whom he had seen. He was convinced that Jesus was the Christ. He knew that Peter needed to meet Him as well. I'm sure that his life was already changed and there was no doubt Jesus was the One they had longed to see.

- The church needs those who are confident in their faith. I'm not talking about a sense of arrogance or self-righteousness, but a confidence in the power of Jesus. I know where I was when He found me. I know how Jesus transformed my life, and I am certain that He is able to do it for you also. He is the only sure thing in this life. We have no guarantees of tomorrow or anything that it brings, but we do have the assurance of abundant, eternal life in Christ.

- Listen, if you are not confident in your faith, don't expect others to respond to your witness. We need the confidence of Andrew. I have met the Lord; He changed my life and He stands ready to do the same for you. If Jesus can save me, He can save anyone! None are beyond His power to save!

C. He was Committed (42a) – [And he brought him to Jesus](#). What a testimony to the faith and dedication of Andrew. [He brought him to Jesus](#). Andrew wasn't satisfied with simply telling Peter of his encounter with the Lord; he brought Peter to where the Lord was.

- We would all do well to learn from the commitment of Andrew. He was determined to get Peter into a position to know the Lord. We speak of a concern for the souls of those around us, but how committed are we to go the extra mile to ensure their opportunity of actually coming to

Christ? Andrew didn't just pray; he acted in faith. He knew that if Peter ever got in the presence of Jesus, he would never be the same.

- Don't give up on that loved one you've been inviting to church. Don't quit being a witness before them. You can't save them, but I know One who can. If we will remain committed to getting them in the presence of Christ; He can work in their hearts and change their eternal destiny. I have no doubts in the power of my Lord; I just need to find that commitment to do whatever it takes to get them to where the Lord is!

I. The Integrity of a Servant (35-39)

II. The Influence of a Sibling (41-42)

III. The Invitation of the Savior (42) – *And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.* This one verse has much to say about how the Lord worked in the life of Peter. It deals with Peter's initial encounter with the Lord, being impacted by his brother. Each of us can likely relate to this passage. Christ saved my soul, but others were instrumental in my salvation as well. We cannot underestimate the importance of our influence and gospel witness. Let's consider how Christ dealt with Peter, aided by the witness of Andrew.

A. The Look of Jesus – As Peter came nigh with Andrew, Jesus *beheld* him. What a blessing that Jesus beholds those who come with an open heart. This wasn't just a causal glance or a brief look; Jesus looked upon Peter with an *intense, earnest look*. He knew that Peter had come with a desire to see the Christ. It was here that Jesus looked into the innermost being of Peter. He searched Peter's heart as He beheld him.

- I remember the day that Jesus beheld me! I was sinful and separated. My life was filled with confusion and despair. I was searching for something to provide the peace that I so desperately needed. My search ended as Jesus searched my heart. He allowed me to see that I needed Him and Him alone. I didn't need what the world offered; I needed Jesus! The Lord always looks within our hearts with a loving gaze. He knows the sin that we carry and the pain that we feel. What a Savior is mine!

B. The Love of Jesus – As Peter came unto Him, Jesus said, **Thou art Simon, the son of Jona**. He knew exactly who Peter was; in fact the Lord knew all about him. Jesus knew the secrets of his heart; He knew the faults and failures of Peter; He knew the person he was and yet He loved him.

- Have you ever known of a greater love? Jesus knows each and every one of us better than we know ourselves and yet He loves us! He knew that we would sin and come short of His glory. He knew that we would allow the cares of life to cloud our vision and desire to give up on Him at times. He knew there would be times when we would live as if we had never met Him and yet He loved us! The fact is Jesus loves us because He is a loving Savior. We have done nothing to merit or earn His love, but He willingly loves us in spite of our failures. He loved us enough to die for us when we were yet in our sins! What love we have in Christ!

C. The Liberty of Jesus – **Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas**. As Peter came unto Jesus that day, he came as **Simon the son of Jona**, but he was given a new name, **Cephas**, which is the Aramaic equivalent of **Peter**, meaning “a rock.”

- Peter had come on that faithful day in his sin, a man of the world, identified by his worldly name, but Jesus gave Simon a new name. He was no longer the man he was before. Peter had met the Lord and immediately he was changed.

- Does that not bring joy to your heart? I remember when I came unto the Lord, tainted by the world and the sin in my life. It was there that Jesus gave me a new name. The old man died out and I was born again in Christ. I am no longer identified with the dead, but I am now counted among the living. In a moment’s time, Peter was freed from the man he was and made a new creature in Christ our Lord! Whom the Son hath set free is free indeed!

D. The Longsuffering of Jesus – This is an important fact to remember as we consider the life of Peter. Here Jesus gave him a new name, but Peter also held onto to the name of Simon. Many times in the Scriptures Jesus refers to Peter as Simon. Likely the most memorable is after the resurrection where Jesus asks three times, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** Jesus knew the heart of Peter and the weaknesses he possessed. At times Peter was strong like a rock, pleasing unto the Lord and at times Simon was weak in his flesh, failing to do as the Lord desired of him.

- Jesus knew all of that before Peter ever met Him and yet he loved him. Peter was a man with two names; a man who battled the man he was before as he strove to become the man he was to be. In all of his failures Jesus never ceased to love Him.

- Are we not much the same? How many days are filled battling the person we used to be as we try to become the person God saved us to be? I am the first to admit that I am much like Peter

in many ways. Often I speak when I should listen, or sit when I should stand, but Jesus loves me just the same. He would be just and right to abandon me to my failures, but He doesn't throw the clay away. He tenderly molds and reshapes us again; patiently working in our lives as we become more like Him each time we fail and then lean upon Him for strength. Were it not for a longsuffering Lord we would all be consumed because of our failures.

We have considered a wonderful and encouraging passage of Scripture. Andrew came to the realization that Jesus was the Christ. He had seen the Light and he wanted to pass that on to Peter. The children of God need to possess the same passion and commitment.

Jesus didn't come to save the righteous; He came to save those who are lost in sin, nothing in themselves but a sinner deserving of hell. Do you know Him today? Have you trusted Christ in salvation? If not come!

¹Tan, P. L. (1996, c1979). *Encyclopedia of 7700 illustrations : A treasury of illustrations, anecdotes, facts and quotations for pastors, teachers and Christian workers*. Garland TX: Bible Communications.