

ANDREW ... the patron saint of all personal workers
ANDREW ... the patron saint of all personal workers
(JOHN I : 40-42)

Andrew was a go-getter ; and if some readers are unfamiliar with this questionable terminology, an explanation will be welcome. A go-getter is a man who stops at nothing. In order to attain his ends he will remove mountains, cross oceans, turn the world inside out, laugh at impossibilities, and finally set a city on fire while other people are looking for a match. A go-getter is a person who goes and gets what he desires, and woe betide anybody who stands in the way. Failure is never admitted, for the untiring man continues until his purpose is fully achieved. Andrew was a man of this calibre. He knew what he wanted, and always took the short cut to reach it. Other men became the great generals in the holy war; but Andrew planned the campaigns, removed the difficulties, and prepared the way for every fresh advance. He was a great go-getter ; the patron saint of all who seek souls for Christ.

Andrew First Found Peter

Jesus of Nazareth had been entertaining guests, and one of the privileged visitors was Andrew. He had been standing with John Baptist when the Stranger passed, and hearing John say, " Behold the Lamb of God," Andrew and another disciple had followed Christ. When they received the invitation to accompany the Saviour, they accepted gladly the hospitality of the new Friend, and stayed with Him the whole day. "And one of them which heard John speak . . . was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his, own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah. . . . And he brought him to Jesus." There was no fuss about this quiet man. He had been with Jesus, and was fully assured that his findings were correct. " We have found the Messiah " echoed the certainty of his soul ; and that was that! Until this time Andrew took pride of place from his brother Simon. It is interesting to notice that the sacred record says of Bethsaida, "It was the city of Andrew and Peter " (John 1 :44). Perhaps he was the elder brother.

Andrew First Found the Lad with the Loaves

When the Lord had gathered together His band of disciples, He separated them into couples in order that their ministry might become more effective. And in the new arrangement, it would appear that Andrew's partner was Philip, for their names are not only coupled together in the official list (Mark 3: 18), but these men are seen together also on later occasions. " When Jesus saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? ... Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?" (John 6: 5-9). Were his eyes alight with expectation as he uttered those words? The provisions were so inadequate that to mention them on such an occasion was an act of stupidity-unless Andrew had very strong reasons for so doing. While the other disciples were regretting their inability to feed the crowd, Andrew was investigating the position. He discovered a boy's lunch. The big man and the small boy pooled their resources, and through them the Master fed a multitude.

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Andrew First Brought the Gentiles to Jesus

" And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus " (John 12:20-22). Philip was puzzled. Let us not blame him, for this marked a new departure in the affairs of discipleship. These Greeks were proselytes, but they were still Gentiles. Had they any part in Messianic privileges? Would their inclusion result in troublesome repercussions? "Andrew, what do you think about it?" And when Andrew had shrewdly considered the matter, he replied, "Philip, we'll tell the Master: He'll know what to do." " And Andrew and Philip tell Jesus." And Jesus answered, "The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.... And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Andrew reminded the Lord of the great world of seeking Gentiles ; the Lord gave to Andrew the great privilege of bringing those Gentiles to Him. And perhaps that is the reason why he is now the patron saint of all personal workers for Christ.

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