

## Andrew

In the gospel of Matthew, Andrew's name appears second in the listing of the apostles (Matthew 10:2). Andrew was from the city of Bethsaida, near Galilee (John 1:44). In Greek, the name "Andrew" means "manly" or "a strong man" (Hitchcock's Bible Names). In today's society, one who is "manly" is often muscular and rugged. Yet, we may consider Andrew to be "manly" for different reasons. Consider the ways Andrew lived up to his name.

**First, Andrew was willing to take orders.** It is common to think of a "manly" man as one barking orders and giving commands. Yet, before any man can give good advice he must take it (see also 1 Corinthians 11:1-3). Andrew, before He was the apostle of Christ, was a disciple of John the Baptist. In John 1, John the Baptist declares to His disciples that Jesus "*is the Son of God*" (1:34). John 1:40 says, "*One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.*" Andrew followed Jesus because He was willing to listen to John the Baptist's testimony. Real [men](#) must be willing to listen

**Second, Andrew, like his brother Peter, was accustomed to [work](#).** Andrew was a "fishermen" by trade (Matthew 4:18). Real men work. It is their responsibility to do so and the failure to work to provide for one's household is sin (1 Timothy 5:8). Jesus did not look for men sitting at home playing video games, watching Sports Center and bumming food from others' fridges. Some of the men who would make the best "fishers of men" were hard-working fishermen themselves!

**Third, Andrew made Jesus a priority.** Too many men have put Jesus on the shelf in their lives. Coming to worship is an act of drudgery to them. Obeying Jesus Christ is not nearly as important as many of the other things they would like to do. So, Sundays are spent on the [golf](#) course, at the lake or in bed. Other things take a much higher priority than God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Not for Andrew. Once he realized the Messiah had come to earth he "*first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated the Christ)*" (John 1:41). Following Jesus was a greater priority than Andrew's work or recreation. Real men will make Jesus a priority.

**Fourth, Andrew brought others to Jesus.** In John 1:42, after Andrew finds his brother, Simon Peter, the text says, "*And he brought him to Jesus.*" In John 6:8-9 it is Andrew who brings the lad with five loaves and two fishes and Jesus feeds 5,000. Some men will obey Jesus and come to worship, but only secretly. They go to work and never even attempt to bring a co-worker to Christ. They never try to lead their extended family to Christ. It is too embarrassing and too "off topic" from the routine conversations. Andrew was willing to get vocal about Jesus!

**Finally, "manly" Andrew sacrificed for Jesus.** According to extra-Biblical history, Andrew "...preached the gospel to many Asiatic nations; but on his arrival at Edessa he was...crucified on a cross, the two ends of which were fixed transversely in the ground. Hence the derivation of the term, St. Andrew's Cross" (Foxe's Book of Martyrs). Preaching the gospel hundreds of miles away from home was a sacrifice Andrew was willing to make. He made the ultimate sacrifice for his faith with his own life. In this world, men are rarely willing to die for something unless they truly believe it. Andrew believed Jesus Christ was the Son of God. Did he die for a lie or is Jesus the Lord of all?