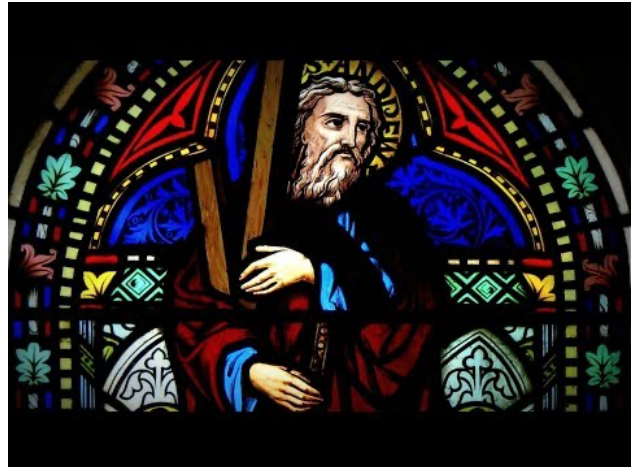


“There were twelve disciples
Jesus called to help him Simon Peter, Andrew,
James, his brother John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew,
James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas
and Bartholomew.
He has called us too. He has called us too.
We are His disciples. We His work must do.”

Andrew

What we know was that he was the first called of the disciples. He, later an apostle, was the brother of the most dominant of the disciples/apostles (Simon Peter), his father was likely John or Jonah (the Hebrew equivalent). Andrew is mentioned only twelve times in the Bible, mostly in lists.

1. He was from Bethsaida, a fishing village of the shore of the Sea of Galilee. They were in partnership with Zebedee and his sons.
Andrew's brother later resided in Capernaum.



Bethsaida was in the territory allotted to Herod Philip, one of Herod's sons, east of the Jordan River and its entrance into the Sea of the Galilee, part of the Galilee of the Gentiles. Herod Philip rebuilt the village and named it for the emperor's wife, Bethsaida Julia. The exact location has not been confirmed by the archeologists.

2. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptizer (John 1:35) who introduced Peter to Jesus at Bethabara, east of the Jordan River (vv. 28, 37, 40).
“We have found the Messiah... (v. 41)”.
3. Later, Jesus met Andrew and his brother washing their nets and called them to be apostles (“[they] followed Him.” [Mark 1:17]) after they caught an enormous quantity of fish (Luke 5:1-11).
4. Andrew appears in the account of the feeding of the 5,000. Jesus asked the disciples to feed the hungry crowd, an impossible task. Andrew found a young man with five loaves and two fish (John 6:8).

5. We meet Andrew again in Jerusalem during the Passion week. Some Greeks, proselytes, came to the Passover and wanted to see Jesus. They inquired of Philip who approached Andrew and together they brought them to the Lord (“the grain of wheat about to fall to the ground” [John 12: 24-25]). A new era is about to dawn!
6. Tradition indicates Andrew suffered martyrdom by crucifixion in 60 AD in Patras, Greece, on an X-shaped cross. He carried the gospel into Greece and the Black Sea area. He has been acclaimed the patron saint of fisherman, rope makers, golfers, and singers (also Scotland and Ukraine).



Thoughts:

1. Andrew is portrayed as bringing people to Jesus (Peter, a lad, the Greeks). People were valuable to him. It does not matter whether it is to learn from Jesus or to deal with a situation, his focus is bringing someone to Jesus.
2. Unlike his brother, he appears soft-spoken and gentle. He was attuned to people's needs.
3. I wonder how Andrew felt when he was not in the inner circle with his brother though he was the first to be touched by Jesus in the group.

James, son of Zebedee

James, the brother of John, the son of Zebedee and Salome, appear in the Bible in Capernaum involved in the trade of fisherman with Peter and Andrew of Bethsaida. His mother appears attached to Jesus witnessing the crucifixion as well as the empty tomb; his father voiced no objection his son's departure from the business (“immediately” [Matt. 4:22, Mark 1:19]). Further, Salome



traveled with other women assisting Jesus (again suggestive of the wealth of the Zebedee's). At the crucifixion we are told, “There were also *some* women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joseph, and Salome. When He was in Galilee,

they used to follow Him and minister to Him; and *there were* many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem (Mark 15:40-41).”

James was chosen to become part of the most intimate circle with Jesus along with his brother and Peter (the raising of Jairus’ daughter [Mark 5:37-43], the transfiguration [Mark 9:2-13], and the Gethsemane struggle [Mark 14:32]).

1. As Jesus moved from the Galilee to enter Jerusalem and the Passion Week. An event in an unnamed village of the Samaritans reveal something of the character of James at this stage of his spiritual maturity. Traveling through Samaria, (not the Transjordan Perea), Jesus entered a village but was rejected, unlike at Sychar (Luke 9:51-56). The sternness of James appears, his defensiveness of Jesus, by seeking to destroy them with fire from heaven (named James a “son of Thunder [Mark 3:17]). He must have had a fiery, passionate, even vehement, temperament.
2. The lack of understanding of our Lord by the disciples is astonishing. He told them on three occasions that he would die in Jerusalem. The first was at Caesarea Philippi revealing Peter’s ignorance. Here the third and last time Jesus is quite specific, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. They will mock Him and spit on Him, and scourge Him and kill Him, and three days later He will rise again (Mark 10:33-34)”.

James only is thinking of the promised kingdom (a crown without the cross), he gets his gullible mother, Salome (“these two sons of mine” [Matt. 20:21]), to ask for places of honor in the kingdom (“What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left [Matt. 20:21]”).

3. James has the distinction of being the first of the apostles to be martyred. Jesus predicted his demise when he sought honors in the kingdom by saying, “You will drink my cup... (the cup of suffering) (Matt 20:23).” The manner was the sword wielded by Herod Agrippa I in 44 AD. Herod Agrippa (11BC-44AD, reigned 41-44 AD) was the grandson of Herod the Great, the last of the Herodian kings. The Lord judged him. “On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and *began* delivering an address to them. The people kept crying out, ‘The voice of a god and not of a man!’ And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God

- the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died (Acts 12:21-23).” To show favor to the Jews, Herod Agrippa persecuted the church in Judea.
4. Tradition suggests that James labored in Spain for the gospel and is the patron saint of that nation.

Thoughts

1. I continue to be amazed that the apostles did not grasp the message of Jesus, only hearing selectively. James got the message that He was a king, but not about His death, though he told them three times. Can selective hearing be said of us at times?
2. James also had visions of his own grandeur in seeking highest honors in the kingdom. He just did not understand! His mother and brother were just as blind. Are we not at times?
3. The assertion of elevated status in the kingdom by James had a negative effect on the other disciples. “And when the ten heard it, they became indignant at James and John (Mark 10:41).” In that context Jesus delivered what we all must remember as we walk through life. “Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, ‘You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:42-45).’”