In text we hear about a special disciple – Andrew. Funny thing is, we don’t hear much about Andrew in Bible. Think about it: what else do you know about him? We do not hear of him preaching a sermon like his brother Simon Peter did on Pentecost. He do not hear that he worked great miracles like Peter. He never wrote epistles as Peter did. So what is so special about Andrew? Andrew had the distinction of being one who had **A MISSIONARY HEART**.

Perhaps another passage from the book of Acts will give us more information. We are told: **Those who accepted Peter’s message were baptized, and about 3000 were added to their number that day**. You are probably wondering what that passage has to do with Andrew.

Even though Andrew did not write any Scripture or establish any of the early churches, he did introduce his brother Peter to Jesus. He did not think he was doing anything special. It was only natural to let his brother know that **He found the Christ**. And look at what Andrew’s brother did. On Pentecost alone, Peter told thousands of listeners about Jesus. His words reached the hearts of many of them and **3000 souls were added to the believers that day**.

Andrew led Peter to Jesus. Peter led 3000 to Jesus. How many do you suppose those 3000 brought to Jesus? Undoubtedly the chain reaction is still with us today.

But that is the way it is with mission work. You tell someone who tells someone who tells someone else and so on. A chain reaction results that you never dreamed possible. Nothing that you can tell of the salvation in Christ is too little or too insignificant. Nor can you ever do too much.

The neighbor you introduce to Christ tells his family and friends and other neighbors and the process starts all over again. The $1 you gave for missions buys a Bible that a missionary gives to a Japanese boy who tells his family about Christ of the Bible and another chain reaction begins.

Or the little boy you influence to enter the ministry tells hundreds who tell hundreds about Christ. Of course, you are only one person with limited contacts and money. But don’t let that stop you. It only takes one, beginning at home, to start the miracle working again.

Yes, it is a miracle. The process works, not because of you, but because of Christ and his gospel which you help spread. It’s the gospel that works faith in people’s hearts. It is that gospel that brought Jesus into your life. It is the gospel that gave you a missionary heart. Christ’s love compels you to tell others about the Savior. Your mission gifts send missionaries to tell others for you.

A good place to start mission work is right at home. If you do not or cannot speak about Jesus at home with your family, how can you hope to be able to speak about him with casual acquaintances and total strangers? But that is what Andrew did. He started with his brother Peter.

Happy is the family where Jesus Christ is the center of its activities and conversations – where parents go over the Sunday School lessons with their children – where brothers and sisters love and respect one another in a way that just being born into the same family does not assure. Happy is the family that prayers together and hears God’s Word together at church. The whole family looks forward together to a joyful reunion with the family of believers in heaven.

That, of course, is the ideal. We do not know if Peter and Andrew enjoyed the ideal. But when Andrew excitedly told Peter: **We have found the Messiah, that is, the Christ**, Peter knew what he meant and felt the same enthusiasm Andrew did. The two boys had been raised knowing and believing God’s promises of a Savior. They no doubt talked about it in the home. The most vital news they could share was the news that the Savior had come. But Andrew did not stop at just telling Peter about Christ. He took Peter to see for himself. Brother brought brother to Jesus.
Maybe your family is not ideal. Since sin has entered the world and our lives, the ideal often seems more of a dream than a reality. Christ is not just the unseen Guest in the home. Too often he is the forgotten and ignored Guest. Some in the family may not really believe that Jesus is true God and Savior or they do not want to hear his Word anymore.

If that is the case, you have the wonderful opportunity to bring Jesus into your home by your example and testimony. And you can also bring them to Jesus by bringing them to hear and learn of Jesus with you at church. You can follow the example of Andrew and turn the dream into a reality. Have a missionary heart and let it show.

But how often do we really do that? When was the last time you invited someone to worship Jesus with you? When was the last time you even spoke the name of Jesus, other than in a worship setting or perhaps by using it in vain? It is a constant source of amazement that otherwise sincere Christians often express indifference about doing mission work and personal evangelism. We have our excuses: **We have to get own church on its feet before we worry about others – I don’t like the way we spend our mission money – I don’t know what to say – I don’t have the time – I never talk religion; it’s too personal – I don’t want to bother them.**

But where is Jesus in all those excuses? Where is the sense of urgency from knowing that each person who dies without Christ has no hope of eternal life? Where is the love of Christ that fills man’s heart and overflows to touch others with the same love? Where is the faithful response to Christ’s great commission: **Go and make disciples of all nations – you will be my witnesses?**

What if Andrew had expressed the same kind of indifference we experience, when he found that Jesus was the Christ? He could have said: **I'll just wait and see what develops out of this before I tell Peter.** When Jesus sent the 12 on their missionary run, Andrew could have objected: I’m only a fisherman. I don’t know what to say. Or think of another incident in Scripture. Some Greeks came to Andrew and said to him: **Sir, we want to see Jesus.** Suppose Andrew had said: **Sorry, we never discuss Jesus with strangers?**

But Andrew didn’t. He found Jesus and set out immediately to bring others to Jesus. When those Greeks approached him wanting to see Jesus, Andrew brought their request to Jesus. He had a missionary heart. With the Savior in his heart, he spend his life introducing others to Jesus. He could not keep Jesus to himself.

So you need to ask yourself: **Can I be a true Christian and not have a missionary heart?** What is a missionary heart? It is a heart that’s received Jesus and must tell others about him. As Peter and John said: **We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.** The heart that has gone to the cross at Calvary and there laid its sins on Jesus and returned 3 days later to any tomb and a living Savior, will want to lead others over the same route.

Jesus is in your heart. So offer him to the hearts of others. Stop for a moment and ask yourself: What have you done to bring others to Christ? Who is the last visitor you brought to hear the Gospel of Jesus? How many have you tried to bring?

Perhaps the more important question to ask yourself is: **What does Jesus mean to me and do others need him as I do?** If you know the proper answer to that two-pointed question, you can gauge your missionary heart.

The world is heading for destruction. All the people in it, as they come into this life, are heading down a long black tunnel to the destruction of hell. That is how we were because of the sin we inherited at birth. But now a **Light** has appeared and shown you the way to heaven instead of hell. That **Light** is Jesus, who is the **light of the world.** He is the one who died for your sins and lives again, to lead you to heaven.

You can share this **Light** with others. Simply tell them Jesus died for all – that he is the
one who is the only escape from hell. Reading through the book of Acts, it is apparent that the book is the continuing account of how those who knew Jesus brought others to him. Now it is your turn. Jesus has saved you and come into your life. He says to you: Be my witness. There is a simple formula that works most effectively for Christians to build the church of Christ. It is simple: Let each one bring one. Why don’t you bring one more person to Jesus now. Pray that God will use you and be with you for that purpose.

Of course, if you, by yourself, told one new person every day about Jesus, it would take you more than a lifetime to tell everyone now living in the world. Time would not be your only hindrance. Add to that the difficulty of language and distance and you have a truly impossible task.

But the task of bring Christ to others is a responsibility Christ gave to his church and that is part of your commission as a member of his church. It stands clear that a person needs to call on the name of the Lord to be saved. But a person cannot call on Jesus unless he has heard of Jesus. But who is going to tell them, unless, in one way or another, you do? It is not hard to be an Andrew and tell someone about the Savior Jesus. All you have to do it repeat Andrew’s words: We have found the Messiah. You do not have to argue like some learned theologian. After all, the Bible is fact and you do not argue facts. You simply state them. You do not need to convert someone to faith. All you need to do is point to Jesus and let the Holy Spirit do the rest. Simply tell them Jesus died for all. It can be as simply as sharing a link to our church website or Facebook page.

You can also combine efforts with your fellow Christians who share the responsibility. As a combined effort, you can send preachers to places to tell of Jesus where you cannot go personally. The more preachers you can send, the more you can hope to teach everyone in a lifetime.

How will you respond to the challenge? Christ, who died to save you and rose to show you that you are saved, wants you to do mission work. The fields are white, ready for harvest. What can you do to help? Begin with prayer. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out more workers. Use the means he has given you to train preachers who will be Jesus’ witnesses for you in other lands. But they need you to make it work.

Some lost soul today is depending on your prayers and gifts if he is going to learn of Jesus tomorrow. Will you provided the needed messengers?

Of course, you can do some of this yourself. Jesus says: You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Let mission work begin in our own Jerusalem – in our own homes. and then let your vision and mission go beyond the doors of your home into the neighborhood and into all the ends of the world. and you will not be going out alone. The same Lord who called you for this task also promises to be with you and help you.

So be like Andrew of old. Have a missionary heart. Share Jesus with someone else. Start as he did. As he shared Jesus with his brother Peter, so you can share it with your family members. Then share it with other people. Have a missionary heart and share the greatest treasure there is with someone else. Share the Savior with them. Amen.

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