

We Have Found the Messiah!

John 1:35-42 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³⁵ Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and *said, “**Behold, the Lamb of God!**” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ And Jesus turned and saw them following, and *said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?” ³⁹ He *said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John *speak* and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He *found first his own brother Simon and *said to him, “**We have found the Messiah**” (which translated means Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

Introduction

It was the summer of 2013. News spread quickly among the members and friends that a new Korean pastor was coming to town. Never seeing me before, most of the congregation wasn’t sure whether their pastor could speak English or not. I still remember the first Sunday when I stood in the podium. The church was packed. There were about 120 people attending. The curiosity and anxiety were palpable in the air. My first words from my mouth were “Some of you may wonder if I can speak English or not.” At that, everybody laughed with relief.

My first year was great. In my thirty plus years of ministry, I have never seen so many people attend annual church conference. Usually about 10-15 people, but that year we had almost 50 people. After the conference, our D/S told me that she has never seen so many people in any given church conference that she presided over. For the same year, we had received another record-breaking number of 38 people into church membership. Praise the Lord.

Well, starting the second year, such enthusiasm began to wane, and everything went back to ‘as usual.’ “Well,” they would say, “Pastor Choi is all right.” It was a pass. Thank God and thank you.

I guess that’s the nature of human relationships. We begin with a great enthusiasm, excitement, and love, yet over time they wane. The same goes with the love between lovers unless we take good care of it daily.

Let's bring that enthusiasm and love into our relationships with the Lord Jesus. I sure hope and pray that our love, devotion, and knowledge of the Lord would increase every day until we stand in the presence of God, instead of slowing down. Amen?!

I am inviting you this morning to meet a man whose devotion and love to the Messiah stayed strong until he was martyred for Christ. This man took the gospel from Israel to Scythia (modern day Ukraine—almost 2000 miles north) and later became a patron saint in Ukraine, Romania, and Russia (Wikipedia). His name was Andrew, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus. Other than the fact that he was Peter's brother, we don't know much about him. We often hear about Peter, Paul, John, and Thomas. But not Andrew. Peter appears 162 times in the New Testament. Paul 182 times. John 144 times. Thomas 11 times. Even Judas Iscariot 10 times. Andrew just 6 times, although he was present on important occasions (E.g., 5 loaves and 2 fish, asking about the end time signs on the Mt. Olives).

From this unknown disciple of Jesus Christ, we can learn the following three lessons.

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First, **Andrew right away discovered the true identity of Jesus** without fully understanding what messiahship entails, without seeing even one miracle that Jesus performed, and without hearing one single lesson of Jesus' teaching. Yet, somehow, he got it. *On the first day he ever met Jesus!* What a blessing he had!

You know, today, all around the world, some Muslims meet Jesus the Messiah just like that – overnight-- through visions and dreams. E.g. *One Muslim seeker asked a Christian pastor about Jesus. The pastor advised him to go to a quiet room by himself and ask the god of Islam to reveal himself. Then, the pastor suggested, he should ask the God of the Bible to reveal himself. The Muslim man decided to follow the pastor's somewhat unorthodox instructions. So, he called out to the god of Islam and, not unexpectedly, was met with silence. When he addressed God, however, to his great astonishment he had a vision of a man in white saying, "Son, follow Me, and stop persecuting My people." The man immediately returned to the pastor and told him he had placed his faith in Jesus Christ (the Voice of the Martyrs, January 2020, pp. 8-9).*

I told you that Andrew discovered who Jesus was right away. As a matter of fact, he did so long before his brother Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) and the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16). He did so before Jesus' first miracle in Cana of Galilee—turning water into wine at a wedding (John 2). The question is: How did he know Jesus the Christ before anybody else? It was the Holy Spirit who opened his eyes to recognize the Messiah instantly (e.g., two disciples on the road to Emmaus—Luke 24:31). The Holy Spirit opened his heart to pay close attention to and hold unto what his teacher John the Baptist

had said previously about Jesus (see also Acts 16:14—the Lord opened Lydia’s heart to Paul’s teaching). Here’s what happened the day before Andrew met Christ.

That day, Andrew was following John the Baptist his teacher (v. 35). He heard him speak about Jesus: *Behold, the Lamb of God! (v. 36) who takes away the sin of the world!* (John 1:29).³⁴ *I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the **Son of God*** (John 1:34). Andrew kept in his heart all the words of his teacher concerning Jesus. The point I am making is this: if we pay attention to what our teachers say, it usually saves time and effort to know the truth. It’s like the teacher going over the key points the day before the final exam. We’d best pay attention to our teachers!

In my case, I paid attention to what my Sunday School teacher had taught on the first day of my life in church. I kept her words in my heart: *Read the Bible. Systematically. 15 minutes every day. Then you can finish the entire Bible from cover to cover in a year.* When I just followed her advice for the next year, my life was forever changed. It laid the solid foundation in my faith journey with Christ. If you pay attention to what I say to you from the pulpit and to any sound Christian teaching, you will find Jesus the Messiah much quicker.

Next, it’s worth checking out who else in the Bible recognized Jesus as **the Son of God (Messiah)**. The Son of God is another way of saying ‘the Messiah—Hebrew word meaning the Anointed’ (or ‘Christ—Greek counterpart of Messiah’).

Who did call Jesus the Messiah or experience Him as the Son of God?

1. **God** predestined Jesus to be the Son of the Most High even before He was born (Luke 1:32). He also confirmed so during Jesus’ baptism (Mark 1:11) and transfiguration (Matthew 17:5).
2. **Jesus Himself** admitted that He was the Son of God when He was questioned by the high priest (Luke 22:70, John 10:36).
3. **John the Baptist** testified that Jesus was the Son of God (John 1:34).
4. **Nathanael** (the righteous man in whom there was no deceit) called Jesus, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel” (John 1:49).
5. **John the Apostle** called Jesus the Son of God: *If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son* (1 John 5:9).
6. **The writer of the Book of Hebrews** called Jesus the Son of God: *Therefore, since we have a great high priest... Jesus the Son of God, ...*(Hebrews 4:14).
7. **Matthew** the writer of the first gospel in the New Testament begins the gospel as this: *The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, ...* (Matthew 1:1).

8. **The 12 disciples of** Jesus, after witnessing that waves and winds obeyed Jesus, worshiped Him saying “Truly the Son of God are You!” (Matthew 14:33).
9. The **devil** called Jesus the Son of God twice (Matthew 4:3, 6), while he tempted Jesus in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights (*your enemy knows best about you*).
10. Jesus healed many a people who were oppressed by **the evil and unclean spirits**. Whenever the unclean and evil spirits saw Jesus, they would fall down before Him and worshiped Him as the Son of God (Matthew 8:29, Mark 3:11).
11. At the foot of the cross, **the Roman centurion** confessed that Jesus was the Son of God (Matthew 27:54). The question is: who is Jesus to you? Do you accept Him as your Savior and Lord?

Finally, **Andrew immediately led his brother Simon Peter to Jesus as soon as he himself found the Messiah**. Remember: Andrew stayed with Jesus just one night. In less than a day after he met Jesus in person, he brought his own brother Peter to Christ. Wouldn't it be great if we imitate Andrew and lead our family and friends to Christ as soon as we find the Messiah?

Here's our reality: most of us wish that our loved ones would be saved. Through someone else, not through us, because they don't listen to us, we say. That's not how Andrew thought or acted. As soon as he found the Messiah, the next day, he led his brother to the same Savior and Lord. Whether his brother accepted Christ or not, it was not his concern. Neither should it be to us, whether our loved ones will accept Christ or not. All we have to do is to invite them to Christ.

There was another disciple of Jesus whose name was Philip. A day after he met Christ, Philip too led his friend Nathanael to Christ (John 1:43-46). Here's the heart and the true spirit of evangelism: Immediate invitation of loved ones to Christ. Do not wait for years before you invite people to Christ. The longer you wait the harder it gets. *Do it now* and leave the rest to God. May God grant us the urgency of salvation and the love of souls so that we would invite our loved ones to Christ right away. With a simple word of invitation: *Come and see*.

Conclusion

Next Sunday, we will take a field trip following Jesus on the road where He will heal many sick people including a leper. Please read Mark 1:40-45 before you come to worship next Sunday. Let's pray.