

AN EXAMPLE IN WITNESSING

John 1:35-42

Introduction: Every believer in Jesus Christ at one time or other has been influenced positively by someone about Jesus. Either directly, person to person, or over the radio or television, or by a tract/pamphlet or hearing a preacher from a pulpit, somewhere, at sometime, a personal contact was made. Just as Jesus was ascending back into heaven He gave instructions to His followers that they were to go into the world and tell the Gospel, the good news, tell people how to be saved and then baptize those who believed. Churches used to have evangelism classes, clinics, showing members how they could be witnesses for the Lord Jesus. What if every believer in Jesus Christ actually witnessed to somebody lost, somebody not a believer in Jesus? There is an example of what is probably the first recorded witness of someone who became a believer to somebody who was not yet a believer and that was recorded in *John 1:35-42* when Andrew met and believed in Jesus and hurried off to tell his brother Simon Peter.

I. AN EXAMPLE IN WITNESSING

1. Andrew was a sincere believer/follower of Jesus.
 - An actual real, experience with Jesus is necessary to be a witness for Jesus.
 - How can a person lead others along a way which he/she has not gone him/herself?
 - Hypocrisy, self-deceit is so common today.
 - Sadly, some imitate belief in Jesus and fool themselves into thinking that they are saved.
 - Beware of a form of godliness which is not supported by the fervor of one's heart and soul.
2. Andrew was sincerely, earnestly concerned for the soul of his brother (others), even though he had just believed in Jesus.
 - Though one be young in God's grace, not very knowledgeable yet, one can begin to win souls.
 - Once a person has trusted in Jesus and knows that Jesus saves, then it is very clear that Jesus can and will save others.
3. Andrew was a new disciple of Jesus, a common person, an average person.
 - He was not a brilliant person like his brother Peter turned out to be.
 - Andrew had no remarkable talent, nothing outstanding, nothing remarkable, yet he was a very useful witness.
 - What might have become of Peter IF it had not been for Andrew's witness to him about Jesus?
 - Let no one point at some believer who is not superior, not brilliant, but just an ordinary person and say that that person should just remain quiet about Jesus?
4. Every single believer in Jesus Christ can do something, can witness for/about Jesus Christ.
 - Be like Andrew in promptness.
 - Be like Andrew in persevering.
 - How many, after Peter, did Andrew tell about Jesus?

II. ANDREW WAS DETERMINED TO WITNESS TO HIS BROTHER

1. As Andrew was determined to bring Peter to Jesus, so should ever believer be determined to bring his/her friends/family to Jesus Christ.

2. It is one thing to invite someone to a church service, to a revival meeting, but entirely another to tell them person to person about Jesus Christ.
3. Like Andrew, one must be persistent with that person of interest until that person has been brought face to face with the Lord Jesus and has accepted Him as his/her savior.
4. Christian, let your one ambition in life be to bring people to the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself, never ceasing to witness till they have trusted in Him.
5. To bring people to the Lord, one can either instruct them personally, or get them to where they can be exposed to and informed about the Gospel.
6. Your own example can influence others and bring them to the Lord Jesus. One's life style most often speaks louder and more clearly than one's words.

III. ANDREW USED WHAT HE HAD

1. Andrew simply used what he had, his personal experience with the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Andrew's concern for his brother Peter's soul proved his wisdom and faith.
3. Believers can imitate Andrew in witnessing by not going very far to witness. Andrew witnessed to his brother just miles away.
4. Just how did Andrew witness to Peter?
 - Andrew told Peter about his own personal experience with Jesus.
 - Andrew explained to Peter what it was that he had found - the Messiah, the Christ.
 - Be clear in your own knowledge of Jesus and your experience with Him and then tell the good news to those you want to know.
 - Andrew was sure of what he had, therefore be assured of your own salvation before witnessing.
 - Andrew got Peter's attention because he was so earnest in what he was telling Peter.
5. Andrew was rewarded for his witnessing - Peter believed him and wanted to meet Jesus, himself.

CONCLUSION:

1. In order to be a witness for the Lord Jesus, one must know Jesus Christ, personally.
2. In order to be a witness for the Lord Jesus, one must deliberately, intentionally go to others and tell them about one's own experience with Jesus.
3. In order to be a witness for the Lord Jesus, one must live such a life that it speaks positively about and for the Lord Jesus.
4. In order to be a witness for the Lord Jesus, one must be sincere and concerned about others coming to know the Lord Jesus as he/she knows Him.