

sermon study guide

Pastor Henry Schorr

Date: June 6 / 7, 2020

Sermon Title: Embracing Discipleship - Part 2: The Person God Calls and Uses

IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. If there was one skill or ability you could instantly have, what would it be?
2. "Not good enough" is a common excuse for inaction. What is a skill or ability you do have that you haven't used for a while?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read *Matthew 9:35-38*

3. In these verses, what do we see Jesus doing? What is He feeling and why? What was so strategic about Jesus' command to His disciples?

Read *Matthew 10:2-4, John 1:40-42, John 6:8-9, John 12:20-22*

4. In what ways does Andrew model a committed disciple for us?

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. Pastor Henry said, "Jesus chose His disciples not for who they were, but for who they would become in Him." He recounts the story of Dr. Howard Hendricks and the great impact his childhood teacher had on the trajectory of his life. What can we learn from this story and model in our own life and choices?
6. How has praying for others changed your view of them and/or moved you to action?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

What would you say is your greatest ambition in life? What are you doing with the gifts, talents, time, and resources God has given to you? Are you holding anything back because of fear of failure or feelings of inadequacy or obscurity? Pray that the Lord would show you ways to respond to His call in your life.

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THE WORD (NIV)

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 10:2-4

² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

John 1:40-42

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

[John 6:8-9](#)

[John 12:20-22](#)

sermon study summary

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Many people feel obscure or insignificant with limited abilities. They feel that what they do doesn't really matter. Sadly, this feeling often prevents them from stepping out into God's faith adventures.

The disciples Jesus chose began as obscure men without extraordinary talents (Matthew 8-9). But Jesus chose them, not on the basis of who *they were*, but who *they would become*. As they responded to the cost (Matt 8:18-22) and the requirements (Matt 9:35-38) of following Him, He was preparing them to become the foundation of the Church that would turn their world upside down.

As we look at the life of one of Jesus' disciples, Andrew, we will learn about the person God uses. Andrew's example will encourage you to believe how God can use you.

Andrew put others before himself. He was always second to his brother Peter: in their fishing business and in the prominence Scriptures give to Peter. If you've lived in the shadow of a brother, sister, spouse, or workmate, you may feel envious, inadequate and inferior--and this might have deepened your conviction that God can't use you the way He uses others.

Andrew became a Christ follower before Peter, but he didn't try to upstage his brother. Instead, he searched for and found Peter and introduced him to Jesus. God calls you to surrender yourself and your reputation completely to Jesus (Mark 8:35). As you do, you will find your identity in Him and your focus will become Jesus and not yourself.

Andrew was clear on his mission. Outside of listing Andrew as one of the disciples, the Gospels mention him three times (John 1:40-42, John 6:8-9, John 12:20-22). Each time he introduced someone to Jesus. Andrew's mission was clear: to sincerely befriend people, show them the love of Jesus by serving them, and introduce them to Jesus. What about you? Are you clear on your life's mission?

Andrew loved people. In the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand (John 6:8-9), people had been listening to Jesus all afternoon. It was getting late, and they were tired and hungry. His disciples didn't know how to feed them. But Andrew brought a little boy who offered his lunch. If your mission is to love people and bring them to Jesus, you will reach out to others, regardless of their age, race, gender or social status.

A good example of how God uses ordinary people comes through the life story of Dr. Hendricks, author and professor at Dallas Theological Seminary. When he was a boy, his parents divorced and he assumed it was his fault. He became an angry trouble-maker. Most of his teachers predicted he would end up in prison. The turning point came when his new teacher told him, "Howard, I've heard a lot about you, but I don't believe a word of it." As she invested her life in him, he began to follow Jesus. Over time, God used him to support and impact thousands of Christian leaders.

What if this teacher believed she had little or nothing to offer Howard? But as she loved him, God changed the trajectory of his life.

As we look at Andrew and Hendrick's teacher, may we believe that God can use us even with our fears of failure or feelings of inadequacy. As the Lord speaks to you about loving and reaching others for Jesus, say "Yes", and commit yourself to doing what He prompts you to do.