

Would you please open your Bibles with me this morning to **John 1:35-42** as we spend some time looking at 'Andrew: an ordinary disciple.'

The term 'ordinary' is defined as *'of a common everyday kind; usual or customary.'* Is that you?

Newsflash: God is in the business of working **through ordinary people** to accomplish **extraordinary tasks**.

Let's stand and read together:

John 1:35-42 NKJV

35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now 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 first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

Let's pray together:

This is our introduction to 'Andrew: an ordinary disciple.'

In our text this morning we read *'one of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.'*

Right from the start we see Andrew identified as *'Simon Peter's brother.'* Ordinary enough it seems. So ordinary he is referred to not as simply Andrew but Simon Peter's brother. That's not so bad is it?

I remember when I quit being known as Brett and became Ian or Jeremy's dad. That's a little different but nonetheless.

I found that Andrew is mentioned a meager 12 times in the scriptures while Simon Peter is mentioned a whopping 156 times.

Yet, if it wasn't for the 'ordinary' Andrew, the '*common everyday kind*' of guy we may never have heard of the '*extraordinary Simon Peter, the Rock*' for it was Andrew who '*first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah. And he brought him to Jesus."*

Now that's extraordinary! God working through you! Never underestimate God's ability to use the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary.

Extraordinary is defined as '*very unusual and deserving attention and comment because of being wonderful, excellent, strange, or shocking.*'

Let's be real clear: bringing people to Jesus or bringing Jesus to people is EXTRAORDINARY!

EX: Wednesday night prayer meeting conversation about baking a cake and taking it to new neighbors and feeling like there was nothing accomplished. Sometimes we don't get to see the extraordinary results of our ordinary labor. [Share story of the 2 ladies in Paris, Illinois who went door to door in 1982 and spoke with Penny].

There's no mistake about it: God tells us as ordinary disciples to GO!

Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Our obedience to go can take various forms.

*July 4th drink distribution and hot dog give away. Tuesday night visitation. Sharing Christ at the break room table. Or like Andrew, an ordinary disciple who in our text this morning simply

- met Jesus
- went and told his brother the Good News
- then he brought his brother to Christ

and because of the willingness of this ordinary disciple Peter believed!

Andrew was an ordinary disciple who God worked through to accomplish the extraordinary!

Could the same be possible with you? I say yes!

Let's meet another ordinary person: the woman at the well at Sychar [She is so ordinary we don't even know her name...]

John 4:5-26 NKJV

5 So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."

The woman met Jesus: notice Jesus initiated the conversation

8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

To the Jews the Samaritan's were considered unclean yet Jesus engaged her.

10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Jesus is sharing truth with her naturally using the water she is seeking as a point of reference to the Living Water He is giving!

15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Notice her desire? She didn't hesitate. She was 'thirsty.' Most are.

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

Jesus spoke the truth to her in love and dealt with the issues of her heart.

19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

She had a background in spiritual matters, a reference point.

25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Jesus met her greatest need: to know Him as the Christ, the Messiah.

What was the response of this ordinary woman? She went and told others the good news and brought them to Christ. [Other disciples didn't understand it]

John 4:28-30

28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

An ordinary woman doing an extraordinary task: telling others of the Christ **whom she had just met herself!**

30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

What was the result? Because of the willingness of this ordinary disciple many believed.

John 4:39

39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."

There's more:

40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of His own word.

We are all ordinary disciples and God wants to accomplish extraordinary things through us such as sharing the Good News with others.

Andrew met Jesus and then brought others to Him.

The woman at the well met Jesus and then brought others to Him.

In John 5 there is a story of a man who had an infirmity for 38 years. That is a tremendously long time! When Jesus asked him if he wanted to be made well he said "*Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.*"

Would you consider being an 'ordinary disciple' such as Andrew or the woman at the well and maybe helping somebody to meet Jesus?

I'm not asking about a team who will sell everything they have a move to Africa to be a missionary. I am asking about an ordinary disciple who will realize that Jesus 'sold everything He had' and came to the earth as a missionary and asks us to be available to Him.

What might be your response?

1. Begin praying about who the Lord might put in your path.
 - maybe they are already there and you have not noticed.
 - maybe you don't feel quite prepared to share with them.
 - maybe you have resisted sharing with them in the past.
 - maybe they have been waiting for you to share with them.

*Specifically, July 27th, the last Sunday of next month we are going to pass out Operation Andrew cards to everybody where we can write down up to 5 names of those God has put on our heart and pray daily

for them and invite them to the Impact World Tour events in September.

2. Consider talking with Megan about going out July 4th and passing out free drinks at Glenn Miller Park or serving hot dogs in our parking lot that evening to those who gather to watch the fireworks. This is kind of 'entry level ordinary stuff' that God can use to produce extraordinary results!

3. Sign up to come and share a meal with others on Tuesday night with friends and then go out on a home visit. [Last Tuesday we had a great time, prayed with a number of folks, showed the love of Jesus, and purchased an alien for \$2. It just doesn't get any better than that!]

There's no 'full court press' expected. No twisting of the arm. It's simply being an ordinary disciple. It's part of our going. It's what we do.

'Loving, serving, giving, growing.'

Did you notice anything similar about these two stories we read this morning? Both Andrew and the woman had just met Jesus themselves and they were telling and bringing others to Him!

That can happen when you meet Jesus you know?

Let's not get the cart before the horse. Have you met Jesus?

Remember the woman at the well? Did you notice how gently He dealt with her while bringing truth to her front door?