

The Faith of Andrew

John 6:1-13

Life Group Discussion – September 16th, 2018

Out of the 12 disciples of Jesus, most know the names Peter, James, and John. But there was one disciple who wasn't as well known but whose faith was unlike any other. His name was Andrew. He was a quiet man, but in the critical moment he showed his faith by bringing his problems to Jesus.

This passage is about a very famous miracle. From 2 loaves of bread and 5 fish, Jesus fed 5,000 people. The crowd had gathered to hear Jesus speak, and the disciples wanted to send them away to eat on their own. They had no money and no means to feed this vast crowd, but Jesus asked them to believe.

Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" (John 6:7-9)

When a seemingly impossible situation appears, we can see the clear difference between the faith of Philip and the faith of Andrew. Most of us can relate to Philip, but Jesus wants us to have the faith of Andrew. He is able to do miracles through us, but our faith must be strong.

Philip had a negative and pessimistic attitude. He believed that there was no possible way to feed such a large crowd. Andrew, on the other hand, knew that it would be difficult but still hoped and believed that there would be a way.

Miracles happen through God's plan and timing in any circumstance and in any situation.

No matter how dire the situation, our faith in God must be strong enough to believe that He can overcome. It was this type of faith that allowed Andrew to bring a boy who only had some fish and bread. It was this type of faith that allowed Andrew to be the catalyst for one of the greatest miracles in the Bible.

1. God is testing us in this world

What are we doing with the situation we are in? What are we relying upon and trusting in to get us through life? In this passage, Jesus was testing the faith of Philip.

Philip was seeing what they did not have. He saw what the Israelites saw when they were in the wilderness. There was no hope and Philip believed that it was impossible. He saw his empty pockets and the vast crowd of people and immediately started to think about how they couldn't feed the people. He was pessimistic and he had no faith.

Andrew was seeing what they did have. Even in the wilderness, Andrew saw that God was still with them. It was this hope that allowed Andrew to have a positive attitude and believe that the impossible was still possible. He believed in the power of Jesus Christ and remembered what He had done before. He believed that even impossible situations are never impossible when Jesus is in the middle. Andrew had faith and believed.

Many of us are going through difficult times. There may be health problems, financial issues, and family problems. We are in the wilderness and it seems hopeless. But we must realize that even in the worst situations, Jesus is in the middle. Our health problems are not problems because Jesus is here. Our financial issues are not issues because Jesus knows. Our family problems are not problems because He loves and cares for us and will take care of us. If we believe what the Bible says is true, then we also believe that Jesus created the entire universe and knows exactly what we are going through.

Be like Andrew and look to Jesus in every situation. Jesus is the only one who is truly reliable and trustworthy and He is the one who will never fail us in any circumstance.

2. God tests us to see where our faith is

Faith is believing that God can perform a miracle in any circumstance. Even when we do not see Him or even if our situation does not seem to change, faith is believing that Jesus is in control.

Philip believed in his experiences rather than the person of Jesus Christ. He saw what the limits of his own body and power were so he became pessimistic when a seemingly impossible situation arose. Philip's faith was in himself and in his past experiences. There will never be any miracles when we believe in only ourselves.

Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered. (Proverbs 28:26)

Andrew's faith was different. He put his faith in Jesus Christ and saw that even the small things could be used for His glory. He believed that God loves His people and therefore believed that something great would happen.

It was because Andrew had faith that he brought the boy to Jesus. It is our job to bring even the small things to God because He can work the greatest miracles through them. God does not only exist in Heaven with the angels, but He is there in the wilderness beside us. We just need to trust in Him and allow God to work in our lives.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

We come to church because we believe that God is Lord over everything. Do not look at the circumstances of this world, but look only at Jesus Christ. Jesus is with you today, and He is the same God who performed the miracles of the Bible. Believe in the power of Jesus, and you will see miracles that you would never have imagined.

SHARING-----

1. When problems occur in life, do I respond like Philip or like Andrew? What do I need to do or work on in order to respond more like Andrew?
2. Talk about a time when you tried to fix a problem with your own strength and failed. Also talk about a time when you gave the problem to God and saw Him work.
3. Speak honestly about the problems in your life and pray together that we would fix our eyes only upon God and trust that He would work in us.