

# GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

## Lesson Two

### IN THE GOSPELS: Andrew and Peter

#### Burden to Impart:

*The Lord is calling disciples, those who would follow Him.* Although Jesus first met Andrew and Peter at the Jordan River, He went back to Galilee to find them and call them again to follow Him. This time He performed a miracle to deeply impress them. He was calling them away from their lowly job of catching fish to work together with Him to do the very highest job in the universe: to catch men for God.

**Memory Verse:** "And He said to them, Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. And immediately, leaving the nets, they followed Him" (Matthew 4:19-20).

#### Facts to Teach:

1. Two young brothers named Andrew and Simon had walked a long way from their hometown in Galilee to hear God's servant, John the Baptist. Because they came from godly Jewish parents (Acts 10:14), they felt drawn to John. Andrew even became a disciple (John 1:35-42).
2. One day John saw the Lord Jesus walking by and declared, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." The Savior that John had been preaching about and preparing the people to receive, had finally come. Two of John's disciples (Andrew and John) realized that the time had come for them to leave him and follow their Savior, the Lord Jesus.
3. Andrew and John stayed with Jesus that day. Andrew quickly found his brother, Simon, and led him to Jesus. To his surprise, Jesus already knew both his father's and his name. Simon did not know that Jesus knew him before the world began (1 Pet. 1:2). The Lord changed Simon's name to Cephas, or Peter, which means a stone. By following Jesus, Simon would be transformed into a person as solid as a rock. Peter and Andrew became the first two apostles (sent ones).
4. Later, Jesus came to Peter's hometown (Luke 5:1-11). After preaching to a crowd at the seashore from Peter's boat He told Peter to sail out into the deep. There, in the frightening sea, the Lord performed a miracle. They caught so many fish that the nets began to tear. Even worse, their boats began to sink.
5. Fear and astonishment took hold of Peter and the rest. Peter realized that a miracle had happened so he fell down at Jesus' knees and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord!" Peter felt unworthy of Jesus because He realized that he was a sinner. He also realized that Jesus was his "Lord."
6. Jesus comforted Peter, telling him that he would no longer catch just fish. He would be used by the Lord to "catch men." The Lord was again telling Peter something about his future, that he would be used by God to "catch" many men for the Lord and His kingdom.

## **Reference Materials**

**SUBJECT: GOD’S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: In the Gospels—the First Disciples of the Lord Jesus**

**SCRIPTURE: John 1:35-51**

**AIM:** To impress the children that the Lord Jesus desires them to follow Him and He also wants to bring many more to follow Him, beginning with their families and friends, especially those closest to them.

**MEMORY VERSE: Eph.6:19**

**BACKGROUND:** John the Baptist’s birth was very special. It was prophesied long before in the Old Testament, and it was announced to his father by an angel of the Lord before he was conceived. Furthermore, his parents were very old to have had a child, especially their first. As a little child, John grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his presentation to Israel. John was one called by God. As a prophet of the Most High, he had been sent before the Lord to prepare His way. In the wilderness, John told the people to repent and many did.

About six months after John’s birth, the Lord Jesus Himself had been born of Mary in the town of Bethlehem. Now the Lord Jesus was at the point of beginning His earthly ministry. The Savior that John had been preaching about and preparing the people to receive was finally here! Although John had many disciples (followers), he now pointed those disciples to the Lord Jesus.

**CONTENT:** John the Baptist was baptizing people in the Jordan River in a place called Bethany (east of the Jordan River). One day John was standing with two of his disciples. He saw the Lord Jesus walking and declared, “Behold the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed the Lord Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” They answered, “Rabbi (or Teacher), where are You staying?” Jesus said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So the two men went with the Lord. They went and saw where He was staying and stayed with Him that day; it was about ten o’clock in the morning. One of the disciples who heard this from John and followed the Lord Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. Andrew first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah.” He then led him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said, “You are Simon, the son of John, you shall be called Cephas.” (Cephas means Peter, or a stone.)

The next day, Jesus went into Galilee and He found a man named Philip. He said to him, “Follow Me.” Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said, “We have found Him whom Moses wrote about—Jesus, the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.” Nathanael answered, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, He said, “Behold, a true Israelite in whom is no guile.” (A person with guile is someone who is smart but sneaky.) Nathanael said to Jesus, “How do you know me?” Jesus said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael said, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God, the King of Israel.” Jesus said, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You shall see greater things than this. You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

**APPLICATION:**

1. When the Lord Jesus first met Simon, He already knew both his name and his father's name. Actually, the Lord Jesus knew him even before the world began (1 Pet. 1:2). The Lord Jesus also knew us—each one of us—before we were born. Even before the foundation of the world He chose us! Surely one day He will call us just like He called His first disciples. Through the years the Lord has had many disciples. One day He will say to us, "Follow Me." Will you?
2. The Lord not only wants us to follow Him, but He has many others that He wants to follow Him. Even though the Lord directly called Andrew and then Philip, He immediately used them to call others (Simon Peter and Nathanael). In the same way, the Lord wants to use us to call others. With whom should we start?
  - a. Andrew first found his own brother Simon and led him to the Lord. We should care for our own families first, just like him. Are there any in your family who don't know the Lord? Parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, cousins? We should pray for them and tell them about the Lord Jesus.
  - b. After the Lord called Philip, he found Nathanael, probably a friend of his. We should be faithful, like Philip, to tell our friends and schoolmates about the Lord.
  - c. Philip and Andrew and Simon, and probably Nathanael were all from the same city, Bethsaida. Likewise, there may be some in our town or immediate neighborhood that the Lord wants to call.

There are many around us that the Lord wants to call to follow Him, but the Lord needs us to call them! We must pray to the Lord to fill us with boldness to speak of Him to others.

3. We should not worry if we feel we don't know the Bible so well, or we might make mistakes, or that we are too young to speak for the Lord. Philip did not know so much. What he said to Nathanael was not quite accurate\*. But he told Nathanael to come and see. We can be so simple like Philip. We can invite our friends to children's meeting to "Come and see."

\*John 1:45, Footnote 45<sup>1</sup>: The information that Philip passed on to Nathanael in the words *son of Joseph and from Nazareth* was inaccurate. Jesus was born not of Joseph but of Mary (Matt. 1:16), and not in Nazareth but in Bethlehem (Luke 2:4-7).

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