

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Red Bud, Illinois**  
**Adult Bible Class**  
***"Jesus' Twelve Apostles: Up Close and Personal"***

**III. Andrew, Philip and Nathanael (a.k.a. Bartholomew)**

Matthew 10:2-3, Mark 3:18, and Luke 6:14 list Andrew, Philip and Bartholomew among the twelve disciples, or followers, whom Jesus designated as "apostles" (ones sent out with a special mission). In John's Gospel Bartholomew ("son of Tolmai") is named Nathanael (Hebrew for "gift of God").

Matthew 4:18-20 <sup>18</sup>As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>"Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup>At once they left their nets and followed Him.

**What two things do we learn about Andrew here?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does Jesus ask of Andrew?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does Jesus promise to Andrew?** \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 1:21, 29 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach....<sup>29</sup>As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.

**What do we learn about Andrew here?** \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 13:1-4 <sup>1</sup>As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" <sup>2</sup>"Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." <sup>3</sup>As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked Him privately, <sup>4</sup>"Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?"

**What question does Andrew ask?** \_\_\_\_\_

(This is the one time that Andrew is listed along with the trio of Peter, James and John.)

**See John 1:35-51. Whom did Andrew follow before Jesus?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why did Andrew start following Jesus?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verses 41-42: What did Andrew do after he learned about Jesus?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where were Andrew and Philip from?** \_\_\_\_\_ (but compare to Mark 1:29)

(Bethsaida means "house of the fisherman." It lay on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee, just east of the point where the Jordan River enters into that body of water. Thus it was a few miles away from Capernaum. The tetrarch Herod Philip re-founded it before the year 2 BC and named it Julias after the daughter of Emperor Augustus, Julia. Some want to say that there was another city named Bethsaida that was near Capernaum in the region of Galilee itself that would have been Philip's hometown.)

Matthew 11:20-21 <sup>20</sup>Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. <sup>21</sup>"Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."

**How might we reconcile these passages that say Philip, Andrew and Peter were from Bethsaida (John 1:44) while Andrew and Peter had a house in Capernaum (Mark 1:29)?**

**Verse 45: What does Philip say about Jesus?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 46: What is Nathanael's reaction to Jesus' hometown?** \_\_\_\_\_

(First century Jews were well aware that the Messiah was prophesied to come from David's hometown of Bethlehem. The hiddenness of Jesus' origin is part of the whole humility of His earthly life. The full reality of His Messiahship would be revealed only in His death and resurrection.)

**Verse 48: How does Jesus “prove” Himself to Nathanael?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 49: What confession of faith does Nathanael give?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 51: What Old Testament event does Jesus refer to with His words?** \_\_\_\_\_

**See John 6:1-9. Verses 5-6: Why does Jesus ask Philip this question?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Does Philip “pass” the test? \_\_\_\_\_ What was his response?** \_\_\_\_\_

(“Eight months wages” [literally “two hundred denarii”] would be around \$10,000 in our day.)

**What was Andrew’s “solution”?** \_\_\_\_\_

(Here we see an example of how Jesus uses meager and common earthly means to work His great miracles as He does for us with water in Holy Baptism and the bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper.)

**See John 12:20-22.** These Greeks belonged to that group of Gentiles who attached themselves to the Jewish way of life and synagogue worship without becoming full converts to Judaism. They were called “God-fearers.” Such people would also go to Jerusalem to worship at the major Jewish festivals (Ethiopian official in Acts 8:27). The outer court of the temple was called the “Court of the Gentiles.” It was in this area that Jesus had driven out the moneychangers and businessmen (Mark 11:15-17). Perhaps this event aroused the interest of these people in Jesus. This feast was the Passover. Philip’s name was Greek. Perhaps these people approached him because he spoke Greek.

**What did these people ask of Philip?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Whose help did Philip get?** \_\_\_\_\_

(Like in John 1, Philip and Andrew introduce people to Jesus. “We wish to see Jesus” is the need of all people to learn of Jesus as He reveals Himself in His Word and Sacraments. We are today’s Philips and Andrews who can guide people to where Jesus makes Himself present for our salvation.)

**See John 14:6-9. When we know Jesus, whom else do we know?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Did Philip understand what Jesus was saying? \_\_\_\_\_ Do we really understand?** \_\_\_\_\_

Philip wants a more direct view of God than what he sees in Jesus. We also would like to see God present in our lives in more visible, direct and miraculous ways than how He appears to us in His Word and Sacraments and through His everyday blessings of food, clothing, shelter, family, etc.)

**See John 21:1-3. What do we learn about Nathanael here?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does this Gospel record as happening in Cana? (John 2:1-11)** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does he do with some of the other disciples?** \_\_\_\_\_

Tradition says that Andrew died bound to a cross shaped like an X. This was meant to prolong his suffering. His date in the church year is November 30. The First Sunday in Advent is always the Sunday closest to this date. His symbol is usually a silver cross on a blue background (national cross of Scotland). Another symbol for Andrew is crossed fishes.

Tradition says that Philip proclaimed Jesus in western and central Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). His symbol is a cross and two loaves of bread which remind us of his answer to Jesus’ question in John 6. The color of the shield is red while the cross and loaves are gold. His date in the church year is May 1.

Tradition says that Nathanael, or Bartholomew, won over King Polymus of Armenia (northeastern Turkey) for Christianity. But the king’s brother was so mad about this that he had Nathanael skinned alive, crucified upside down and beheaded. His symbol is a red shield with a silver knife on an open golden Bible or simply three knives. His date in the church year is August 24.