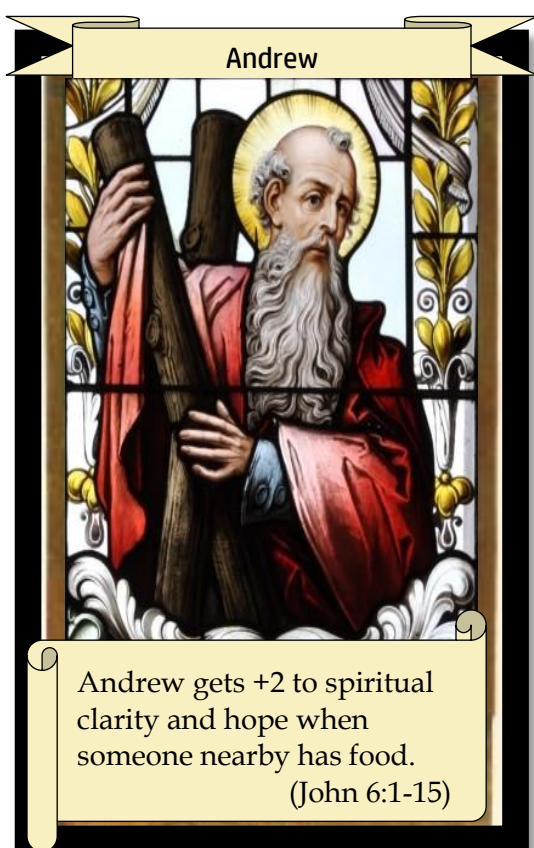


LEARNING TO FOLLOW JESUS WITH THE TWELVE APOSTLES

WHO ARE THE APOSTLES?

The word “apostle” means “one who is sent.” Some moments were shared by all the apostles. Other conversations and moments happened with specific Apostles. As we get to know the Twelve, we will be focusing more on their unique moments with Jesus.

Quick Glance with the Twelve Apostles Trading Cards



Born: 5-6 BC in Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee

Name(s): Andrew means “manly,” “brave,” or “valor” in Greek.

Major Moments: Called with Simon Peter at the fishing boats; Healing of Peter’s Mother-in-Law; Feeding of the 5,000; Some Greeks Seek Jesus; Jesus’ Prophecy at the Mount of Olives

Death: mid to late 1st Century AD in Patras, Achaea (modern day Greece) by crucifixion on a saltire (X-shaped cross) or a Latin cross († shaped)

See Him in Art: Often depicted as an old man with a long white beard. He sometimes holds a Gospel Book or scrolls, leans on a saltire, or he has a fishing net.

BACKGROUND & CALLING

Andrew is a fisherman and he is Simon Peter’s brother. Their father was John or Jonah.

-CALL STORY 1 (MATTHEW 4:18-19; MARK 1:16-18)

Jesus called Peter and Andrew in Bethsaida when they were busy fishing. Jesus says, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” They dropped their nets, left their father behind with hired workers, and followed him.

-CALL STORY 2 (JOHN 1:35-42)

John the Baptist sees Jesus in Bethany and John tells his followers that Jesus is the Lamb of God. Andrew is one who hears John the Baptist say this. He follows Jesus to see where he is staying and remains with him. Andrew then found his brother Simon Peter and told him, “We have found the Messiah.” Then he brings Simon Peter to see Jesus.

LIFE & TIMES WITH JESUS

Whenever the Apostles are listed in the Bible, Andrew is named among the first four. He also has two Gospel stories with Philip – the feeding of the 5,000 and the incident where some Greeks want to speak to Jesus. Philip and Andrew are the only Apostles with names derived from Greek rather than Hebrew.



-PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW IS HEALED (MK 1:29-31; LUKE 4:38-40)

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, Peter and Andrew shared a house in Capernaum. Jesus and the Apostles enter their house to find Peter's mother-in-law sick in bed with a fever. They told Jesus that she was sick and Jesus, “came and took her by the hand and lifted her up.” Her fever was gone and she served Jesus and the Apostles.

Feeding the Five Thousand (John 6:1-15)

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.”

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Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Jesus knows what he is going to do, but he wants to know if his followers can see it, too. He asks Philip where they can find bread for this crowd. Philip can only marvel at how much it would cost to feed to many. But Andrew sees the little boy who has some bread and fish. Even though he still thinks it must be impossible, he sees that bread and fish are there already. It is easy for us to be like Philip and say how impossible our ministry is. It is much more difficult to be like Andrew and to see the sliver of hope and to imagine that there's even the slightest chance that God will work through what we have to give us what we need. What can we do to see the possibilities with Andrew in our own ministry?
2. The people see what Jesus has done and recognize him as a prophet. Then they want to force him to be king. Sometimes we're more interested in turning Jesus into who we want him to be rather than letting him tell us who he is and what he wants us to do. How do we best kneel to the one who is beyond all kings, beyond all prophets, beyond all powerful leaders? How do we catch ourselves when we think we can control Jesus?

-SOME GREEKS SEEK JESUS (JOHN 12:20-26)

Fast forward to Holy Week: Jesus has entered Jerusalem triumphantly on Palm Sunday. Some Greeks went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. They were probably God-fearers who believed in the teachings of the God of Israel, but did not circumcise or keep kosher. These Greeks sought out Philip to gain access to Jesus and Philip told Andrew about it. Then Peter and Andrew told Jesus. Jesus tells them, "Whoever serves me must follow me, and what I am, there will my servant be also."

-MOUNT OF OLIVES (MARK 13:1-13)

Jesus takes Peter, James, John, and Andrew to the Mount of Olives opposite the Temple to speak to them privately. Jesus tells them that the Temple will be destroyed and they ask him when it will happen. Jesus warns them that false prophets will try to lead them astray, that there

will be wars, earthquakes, and famines. He tells them about the signs of the end times and that it is their responsibility to bring good news to all the nations.

THE EARLY CHURCH

The book of Acts mentions that Andrew was there for the Ascension and for the meeting to find a replacement apostle for Judas Iscariot.

The Church has traditionally held that each of the Apostles had their own mission field. They came together and drew lots to find out where God wanted each of them to go. Here are a few traditions:

1. Andrew preached on the Black Sea and up the Dnieper river all the way to Kiev.
2. Another tradition says that Andrew founded the See of Byzantium (diocese, or region) in Istanbul, Turkey.
3. Yet another tradition says that he preached in Thrace (modern day Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey), Scythia (Ukraine, southern Russia, western Kazakhstan, eastern Poland, southern Afghanistan, eastern Iran, southwest Pakistan, and parts of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), and Achaia (western Greece).

The tale of his death is different depending on which tradition you follow. One is that he died in Patras, Achaia by crucifixion. Some say that he died on a standard cross like Jesus did. Others say that he was crucified on an X-shaped cross that is now commonly called “Saint Andrew’s Cross.” Tradition holds that Andrew asked to be crucified on this X-shaped cross because he felt he was unworthy to be crucified in the same manner as Jesus.

LEGENDS



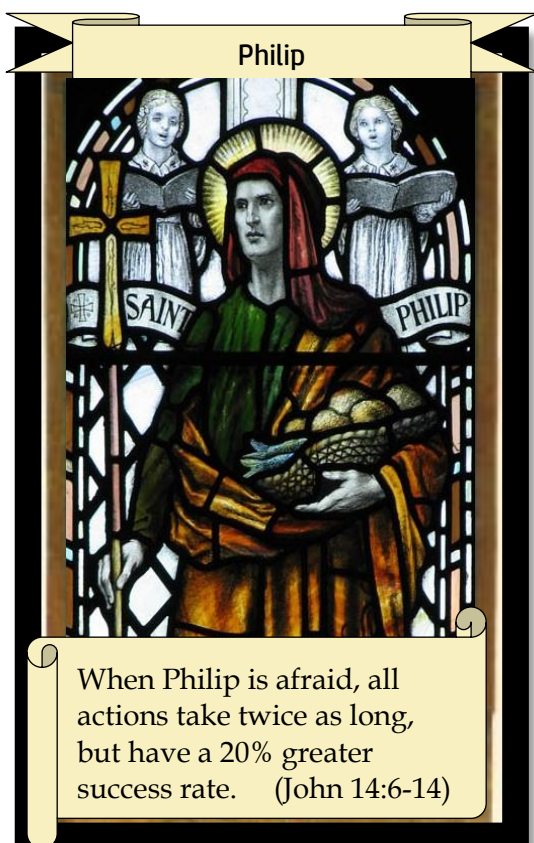
Have you ever wondered why the flag of Scotland is a white Saint Andrew’s cross on a field of blue? Well, there is a legend that in 832 AD, Óengus II went into battle against the Angles, leading an army of Picts and Scots. The general, Æthelstan, was greatly outnumbered and he knelt in prayer the night before the battle. He made a vow to God that if he and his soldiers won the battle, he would declare Saint Andrew the patron saint of Scotland. The morning of the battle, he saw white clouds come together in the

shape of an X in the sky. He saw this as a sign from God that he would be victorious. They won the battle and Andrew became Scotland’s patron saint and, later, the sign of its flag!

PRAYER

God of vision, we pray to you as people who walk with your Apostle Andrew. Give us the clarity to see what you can do right here with who we are and what we have already. Help us to see the kingdom that is coming and to live like it is fully present: in love, in justice, in service, and in peace. Amen.

Quick Glance with the Twelve Apostles Trading Cards



Born: 1st century AD in Bethsaida, Galilee

Name(s): Philip means “fond of horses” in Greek. Since horses were only owned by the wealthy, this name was a way to call your child “noble.”

Major Moments: Call Story; Feeding the 5,000; Some Greeks Seek Jesus, Show Us the Father

Death: 80 AD in Hierapolis, Anatolia crucified upside down. OR he was beheaded.

See Him in Art: He is usually painted as an old, bearded man sometimes holding a basket of loaves. He is also associated with a cross with two loaves on each side.

BACKGROUND & CALLING

Church tradition says that Philip was from the tribe of Zebulun. Other than that, we don’t know a lot about his background. Since he’s from Bethsaida, the same city where Andrew and Peter are from, it’s possible that they knew each other before they met Jesus. Philip is always 5th when the apostles are listed and he comes up the most in the Gospel of John.

-CALL STORY 1 (JOHN 1:43-51)

You might remember that Philip is a part of the call story that we already looked at last week for Bartholomew/Nathanael. Jesus found Philip and said, “Follow me.” Then Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote.” Nathanael is incredulous and Philip says, “Come and see.”

-CALL STORY 2 (MATTHEW 8:18-22; LUKE 9:57-62)

Clement of Alexandria, a 2nd-3rd century Church Father, wrote that Philip was the one who, when called by Jesus, said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” Jesus replied, “Let

the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” The Gospels don’t specify that this was Philip.

LIFE & TIMES WITH JESUS

Philip was present for the major events with Jesus, but there are other events where he’s mentioned specifically:

-FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND (JOHN 6:1-15)

You may have noticed that Philip was also mentioned in the feeding miracle that we discussed when we explored Andrew’s interactions with Jesus. Jesus asks, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” Philip answered, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.”



-SOME GREEKS SEEK JESUS (JOHN 12:20-26)

Here’s another story that Andrew and Philip share. Some Greeks went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. They sought out Philip to gain access to Jesus and Philip told Andrew about it. Then Peter and Andrew told Jesus. Jesus tells them, “Whoever serves me must follow me, and what I am, there will my servant be also.”

Philip Tells Jesus “Show Us the Father” (John 14:1-14)

[Jesus said,] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

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⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Jesus makes this speech at the Last Supper. He has washed everyone's feet and then tells his disciples, "Where I am going, you cannot come." Then he commands them to, "Love one another just as I have loved you" and that's how you will be known as followers of Jesus. Peter proclaims that he will follow Jesus now and even lay down his life for his Teacher. Jesus tells Peter that he will deny Jesus three times before the rooster crows. It is in this flurry of shock, confusion, uncertainty and fear that Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Jesus is walking into his own death, he's acting like a servant washing everyone's feet, Peter (the leader of the Apostles) is shown to be a soon-to-be failure to everything they have done together, and Jesus says simply, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Where do you find the peace of Christ in the chaos of life? Is it hard to find the path – the way that Jesus has carved out – to lead us to his Father's house?
2. Jesus says, "you know the way to the place where I am going." Christians have pondered for centuries about what Jesus meant when he said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." The early Jesus movement was often called "the way." So, what is the way? What is the truth? What is the life? How does Jesus challenge our common understandings of these crucial ideas?
3. In the feeding miracle, Philip calculated the impossibility of feeding the crowds with so little funds. He was afraid of letting people down and his fear took over. Sometimes when

we're afraid, we look at what we can calculate and what we can control so that we don't feel helpless. Here, too, Philip seems to be terrified that Jesus is going off without him. He doesn't understand how the Apostles will make it without Jesus right there with them. So, he can't be content with Jesus' assurances that, "if you know me, you will know my Father also." Philip says, "Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied." Unlike doubting Thomas, Philip isn't looking for proof – he's looking for comfort. It's like he's saying, "show me that everything is already perfect and solved right now and I will believe in the ultimate restoration and healing of all creation when you return in the last days." Philip wants to see everything laid out perfectly before he can exhale. How do we trust that God is embracing each one of us and working in human history when tragedy strikes? How do we let go of our desire for control and trust that God will make a way for goodness and justice and peace?

4. Jesus says that he is in the Father and the Father is in him. But he also says that if his words are not enough for us, his works should be. Then, he adds that those who believe in him will do works greater than he has done because he is in heaven with the Father. What do you believe about miracles in our time? What is a miracle?

THE EARLY CHURCH

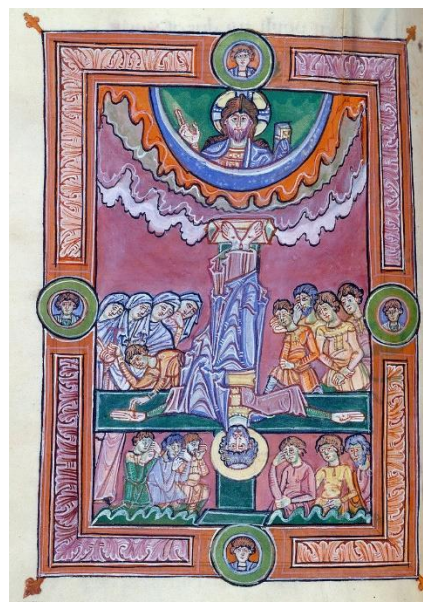
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The Church has traditionally held that each of the Apostles had their own mission field. They came together and drew lots to find out where God wanted each of them to go. Here are a few traditions:

1. Philip preached the Gospel in Greece, Syria, and Phrygia (modern day Turkey) together with his sister Mariamne and Bartholomew the Apostle.
2. Another tradition says that he went on a missionary journey by himself and never returned.

There is a different Philip who preaches in the book of Acts who is sometimes confused with Philip the Apostle. That Philip is commonly called Philip the Evangelist to avoid misunderstandings.

The tale of his death is different depending on which tradition you follow. He is said to have converted the wife of a proconsul in Hierapolis after preaching and performing a miracle healing. The proconsul was so angry that he had Philip, Mariamne, and Bartholomew tortured. Philip and Bartholomew were then crucified upside down. Philip continued preaching from the cross. The crowd was so moved by his preaching that they wanted to let Philip and Bartholomew down from their crosses. They released Bartholomew, but Philip insisted that he be left to die on the



cross. By this legend, he died in Hierapolis, Phrygia in 80AD. Another legend holds that Philip was beheaded as a martyr in Hierapolis.

PRAYER

God of the fearful, we pray to you as people who walk with your Apostle Philip. Help us to challenge our impulse towards perfectionism when we are afraid. Let us remember that you are perfect and holy. As we follow you, your love is more powerful and more effective than any nervous striving that we could offer to make things good. Amen.

References

- “Andrew,” *The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*, 2009.
- “Philip,” *The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*, 2009
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_the_Apostle
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_the_Apostle
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Peter

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- Detail of a stained-glass window of Saint Andrew the Apostle at the parish church of Saint Alban in Biberach, Germany by F. X. Zettler (19th century, created in Munich)
- “Saint John the Baptist” by Juan de Juanes (c. 1560, Spanish)
- Flag of Scotland, adopted in the 16th century
- Detail of a stained-glass window of Saint Philip at St. Andrew’s Church in Ilford, England (20th century)
- “Feeding the Multitude,” an illustration from the Codex Egberti (illuminated Bible); created by the scriptorium of the Reichenau Monastery for Egbert, bishop of Trier (980-993)
- “Crucifixion of Saint Peter,” an illustration from a Sacramentary (the book used by a priest leading mass) in Latin France, Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel, ca. 1060