

ST. ANDREW

THE LESSON: JOHN 6

St. Andrew was a fisherman of Galilee and one of the first disciples called to follow Jesus. He and his brother Simon Peter would have been there at Cana to witness Jesus' first miracle, and he went on to witness many, many more, eventually taking his place as an apostle and martyr.

One of the few instances where the Gospels single out St. Andrew is in the story of Jesus' miraculous feeding of 5,000. The incident is recorded in all four Gospel accounts, which is also somewhat unusual. St. John's Gospel takes the trouble to give us a few more details than the other Gospels. He wants his readers to know when and where this miracle occurred – firmly rooted in human history and geography. He also wants his readers to see how this miracle ties in with Jesus' teaching.

As we read the narrative keep in mind that St. Andrew and the other disciples were only human – like us – and yet, as believers who followed Jesus right to the end of their lives, they remain strong examples for us in our faith.

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE "FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES", WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

Spend some time reflecting on the benediction from Ephesians 3:20-21: "*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.*" Have you, like the disciples so many years ago, lost sight of all that God is able to accomplish? Ask him to strengthen your faith in his power and your trust in his love.

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through the following collect.

Almighty God, who didst give such grace unto thy holy Apostle Saint Andrew, that he readily obeyed the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ, and followed him without delay: Grant unto us all, that we, being called by thy holy word, may forthwith give up ourselves obediently to fulfil thy holy commandments; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE, P. 260)

ST. ANDREW

JOHN 6: **HOW TO FEED FIVE THOUSAND**

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii 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 for so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then 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. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"