

# Sermon - Great Expectations – Andrew

Pastor Ed Blonski | November 30, 2022

## Great Expectations

### a. Expectations of December

As we continue this series of Advent messages called “Great Expectations” let’s revisit some of the expectations of December, winter, and Christmas, that many indicated this past weekend.

- Hopefully not too much snow
- Wanting to be with family
- No snow or at least plowed and shoveled snow
- Sunny and temperatures above freezing
- Worship Baby Jesus
- Beautiful Christmas Carols
- Christmas Trees
- Decorations
- Be faithful to God and each other
- Be content in any circumstances
- Peace on earth
- Good will to each other (kindness)

Today, in a sense, “X” will mark the spot of our expectations.

### b. Expectations of God’s Call in Your Life

Expectations.

We all have them.

When we are growing up, we have certain expectations about what life will be like when we’re adults.

When we’re single, we have certain expectations about what married life will be (even if it isn’t on our radar).



What about God's calling in your life? What are your expectations of that, if any?

It is that question that led me to this midweek's message in the series "Great Expectations" where we meet Saint Andrew.

What does Saint Andrew have to do with Christmas and Advent?

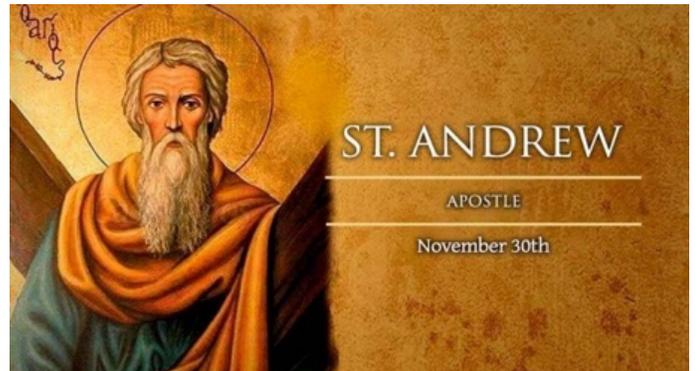
## Saint Andrew

### a. His Day is November 30

His "day" is November 30 – as tradition says he died on November 30 in the year AD 60.

### b. Closest Sunday to His Day is Beginning of Advent

And the Church begins her church year with the season of Advent, which starts on the Sunday closest to November 30 – this year being the earliest it can start, on November 27.



## Expectations of Andrew

But, let's talk about Andrew's Expectations.

### a. Disciple of John the Baptist

Andrew was looking for a life-altering event in the times he lived – the first century AD. Roman occupation of Israel was a hot topic on every Jewish mind.

Andrew found a sympathetic and inspiring preacher in John the Baptist and became one of his disciples.

### b. Fisherman and Brother of Peter

Andrew was also a fisherman in Galilee. He and his brother – Peter – apparently partnered with James and John, the sons of Zebedee – in their fishing business.

They also were followers of John the Baptist and would go hear him preach whenever he was in town.

### c. First Called

This would have the life-altering effect that Andrew might have been expecting!

When John the Baptist baptizes Jesus, Andrew begins following Jesus.

He would be known as the "first called" disciple – in Greek, "Πρωτόκλητος."

Not only was Andrew there at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, he is also noted as being at several key events.

### d. Feeding of 5000 (he knew of the boy with the lunch) – John 6

After hours of teaching, a large crowd around Jesus were hungry – and it is noted that there were at least 5000 men in the crowd! Jesus turns to Philip and sets him up by asking where they can get food for all these people – knowing exactly what He was going to do!

Andrew seems to expect this! He brings a young boy's lunch of five barley loaves and two fish.

Andrew's expectation was that Jesus could do miracles with so little for so many!

### **e. Greeks Want to See Jesus – John 12**

Later in Jesus' ministry – in fact, the last few days of His ministry – Andrew again has expectations.

Some Greeks were in Jerusalem for the Passover, heard that Jesus was there, and want to meet Him.

#### **i. They see Philip**

They go to Philip – since he was from Greek-speaking Bethsaida. Makes sense, so far.

#### **ii. Philip Goes to Andrew (Chain of command?)**

But then Philip goes to Andrew. Not Peter, James, or John – the inner circle of disciples. But Andrew.

We know that Philip was a neighbor of Peter and Andrew in Bethsaida – perhaps they grew up together.

But Philip also must have remembered how Andrew went and found Peter after meeting Jesus to tell him that they found the Messiah.

Andrew must have had expectations of bringing people to Jesus and Philip must have known that!

### **f. Wants Signs of the End of the Age – Mark 13**

About this same time Andrew – along with Peter, James, and John – go to Jesus privately to ask about the signs of the End of the Age.

Andrew's expectation might have been that since Jesus was warning about the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem, Jesus must be planning something even better.

### **g. Missionary Journey took Him to**

After Jesus' ascended back to heaven, Andrew's expectations about the End of the Age shifted into expectations of missionary journeys.

#### **i. Crimea, Kiev and the Black Sea.**

While we don't have Biblical accounts to guide us, tradition says that Andrew made it as far as Kiev and the Black Sea and brought the Gospel

there – resulting in him being the patron saint of Ukraine, Romania, and Russia.

#### **h. Martyrdom on a crux decussata**

He made his way back south, ended up in the third largest city in Greece but was executed by Rome there on a crux decussata – an “X” shaped cross – that would forever after been known as Saint Andrew’s Cross.

## **Andrew’s Possible Expectations**

Like most people, Andrew may have had certain expectations in his life, especially after being called by Jesus to be a disciple.

#### **a. First Called – Head Disciple?**

We know he was the first disciple called. What must have been his expectation about this? To be the “head disciple”?

The “go-to” guy among the twelve?

Other than Philip with the Greeks, we have no evidence of that.

##### **i. But after seeing how Peter acted...**

Maybe after he witnessed how Peter acted being what some might consider the “head disciple” – speaking rashly, getting rebuked by Jesus, and then denying Jesus – Andrew’s expectations may have begun to shift away from power.

##### **ii. After seeing how James & John acted...**

Then after seeing how James & John tried to jockey for head positions in Christ’s new kingdom, Andrew perhaps completely shifts his expectations.

#### **b. The Death & Resurrection of Jesus Changed His Expectations!**

Certainly his expectations shift completely to those of missionary and evangelism activities after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

##### **i. Tell Others About Jesus**

Andrew was called by Christ to proclaim the Gospel and he went north into Ukraine and Russia – at the time called Scythia – to do so.



## ii. Expected to Do So His Entire Life

It seems to me that Andrew expected to do this for the rest of his life – which, apparently, he did – finally literally giving up his life for the Gospel.

## How Can That Shape Our Expectations?

Andrew was called to be a follower of Jesus and that shaped his expectations.

What can we learn from Andrew and his expectations?



### a. A Christian All Our Lives!

Maybe – like Andrew – you have been a Christian from the beginning! You were baptized as an infant in the church.

You went to Sunday school, confirmation, youth group. You attended Bible study at the student union all through college.

You got married in the church, you had your kids baptized in the church.

You have literally been a follower of Jesus all your life!

#### i. Should We Expect Recognition?

Does that bring a certain level of expectation of recognition or reward?

Let's be honest, some of us do think that way sometimes.

#### ii. Did Andrew?

It would be easy to think that even Andrew had expectations like that at times.

I'm reminded of what Jesus said once, "So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'" (Luke 17:10)

### b. The Expected Calling of a Christian

Being called to be a follower of Jesus certainly brings expectations to your life.

#### i. Love God – Love Neighbor – Tell Others About Jesus

But it is vital to see that we will be blessed when we realize our expectations should be to love God (as we have been loved by God), to love



our neighbor (as ourselves) and to tell others about Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation to all who believe!

**ii. Let's Expect To Do This All Our Lives - This is a GREAT Expectation!**

Expect to do this all your life as a follower of Jesus and you will indeed have a great expectation!