

*43The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" 48Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." 51And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."*

They were like a plague to me, Marty and Phil. They were more of a plague than Cal Cumalodo next door who turned up his stereo in the middle of the night and pounded on the wall because he knew how upset I would be being awakened from my sleep. Cal intended to bother me, they came dressed in the guise of love.

"Are you saved?"

"Do you really believe and trust in Jesus as your personal Savior? If you don't really believe, you are going to hell."

In the name of love they came sowing the seeds of doubt.

"Yes, I believe in Jesus," I replied.

But they were not convinced. In their minds I was lost because I did not say it the way they said it, pray it the way they prayed it. I didn't follow where they were leading.

They were my first lesson in evangelism. I decided I wanted nothing to do with people who wanted to create me in their own image.

Maybe you have had a like experience. A knock on the door - being stopped on the street or in the airport - a conversation at work. Suddenly your palms are sweating, your beliefs are under attack - whatever you answer is greeted with an arrogant look that says, "I know better than you."

If you have had this experience there is nothing you would less like to be than one of them: A witnesser.

Operation Andrew. Where does this stuff come from? From the first chapter of John.

"The next day John the baptist was again standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples

herad him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi, where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' One of the two who heard John speak was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah.' He brought Simon to Jesus."

People bringing people to Jesus. John telling Andrew, Andrew telling Simon Peter. And they believed, and they followed and they were changed.

Operation Andrew is about bringing people to see Jesus. Praying for them, inviting them to the Billy Graham Crusade, trusting that what they hear will grow in them into the fruit of faith.

Are you arrogant to think that you could identify someone who needs Jesus? Do you become a plague to them like Phil and Marty were to me? Who are you to sit in judgement of another person, and their need for Jesus?

It is not as if you and I have things all solved for ourselves. Temptation is a daily battle, sometimes Jesus wins, sometimes Satan does. Who are we to go and tell others?

Maybe we are like someone walking by a pond, that sees someone thrashing in the frigid waters. We would not simply walk by; we would do what we could to help.

All around us people are drowning in chaos.

Fears, anxieties, crisis have become the daily habits of their life.

For them Jesus is a new possibility, a new life. Resting in him, guided by his word and his Spirit God promises to call forth a new creation out of the chaos. Hearing God's servant, Billy Graham preach may be a beginning.

I don't think that you and I have something that our drowning neighbors don't have. But we know who does have life and truth and a way out of the chaos, Jesus, our Lord.

We have not arrived in the Promised Land, but we know that we need the others that God is calling to join us on the journey.

A long time ago we thought that church people were better. But now we know that we are not because we look into our own hearts, and we see just how much work God has yet to do.

But we know and believe that Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. We want others to come and see. Maybe God will make us all new together.

I'd like to take a moment for you to think about the people in your life. Who's struggling? Who in your life is fighting the waters of chaos? See that person, coming to Jesus, getting new hope, new life in Jesus. Pray for her, speak to him. Be Andrew, bringing one you love to see Jesus.

Take more look, this time into your own heart. We're having an altar call here in just a few moments. You will come to receive the body and blood of your Lord, to be filled with Christ, to walk a new walk in faith, and love and obedience to the Word of God.

Come and see.