MORNING MEDITATION

St. Andrew, Apostle

The most powerful weapon you can use to end war is peace.

Romans 10:9-18

Paul tells the Christians in Rome that no one who believes in Jesus would be put to shame! He praises all who proclaim the good news of Jesus, "How wonderful are the feet of those who announce good news!"

Bring the good news of Jesus to someone today!

Psalm 19

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul;
The decree of the Lord is trustworthy,
Giving wisdom to the simple.

Mathew 4:18-22

Simon, Andrew, James and John left all they had to follow Jesus. They were not men of great scholarship or influence or wealth or social background. They were not poor either. They were just men, simple working men, just ordinary folks. They were fishermen. Good fishermen must possess certain qualities which make them good fishermen:

Patience - learn to wait till fish takes the bait. **Gentleness and Calmness** - Quick moves and restlessness will never make a good fisherman. **Perseverance** - learn to try and try again. **Courage** - be ready to risk and face the fury of the sea. **An eye for the right moment** - discern the right time to fish, certain times the fish won't bite. **Fit the bait for the fish** - one fish rises to one bait, another to another bait**. Be invisible** - stay out of sight, even his shadow keeps the fish from biting.

Reflect on these qualities of fishermen and let them become your quality!

Saint of the Day, November 30 - St. Andrew, Apostle and 5 other saints are remembered this day.

Andrew, the brother of Peter, from Bethsaida in Galilee was a fisherman. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that while walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw Andrew and Simon Peter fishing and called them to become his disciples and they did.

However, the Gospel of John tells us that Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. When Jesus walked by one day, John the Baptist stated, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" and then Andrew followed Jesus.

We do not know much more about Andrew. Andrew is often shown as the man who brings others to Jesus. He brings his brother, helps the Greek men who wanted to speak to Jesus and brings the boy with five loaves and fishes.

Tradition tells us that Andrew went to preach the Good News around the shores of the Black Sea and throughout what is now Greece and Turkey. Andrew was martyred by crucifixion in Patras (Greece). He was bound, rather than nailed, to a cross, as is described in the Acts of Andrew. He was crucified on a cross form known as "crux decussata," which is an X-shaped cross or a "saltire." Today this is commonly referred to as "St. Andrew's Cross." It is believed that Andrew requested to be crucified this way, because he deemed himself "unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus."

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