

Wednesday, November 30, 2005

### **The First Special day in the New Church Year**

John 1:35-42 The next day John again was 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 heard 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' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter). The first "Day" of the new Church Year (which began last Sunday) commemorates [today] the Apostle Andrew. He is especially remembered for introducing his brother to Jesus. That is a great statement: "He brought Simon to Jesus" and we know the rest of that story. The New Year begins with a Day focused on personal evangelism. In reading this familiar passage, I am struck this time around with the pre-evangelism involved. Andrew was influenced by the teaching and witness of John the Baptist. Andrew had learned from John and others about the coming "Lamb of God". That phrase and the Bible Doctrine and Prophecy behind it was familiar to Andrew before he personally met Jesus. Likewise with the title and prophetic work of "Messiah"- familiar not only to Andrew, but to Peter, as well. I am mindful that these men were Jews and knew their Bible from childhood, before coming to know Jesus personally. There is a lesson here, not only about evangelism, but about the importance of what used to be called Sunday School (now something called Spiritual Formation) More than all this, however, is the Gospel Writer's translation/explanation for his non Jewish readers, of the Hebrew titles, and therefore, the concepts. This passage can be used, not only to encourage personal evangelism, but pre-evangelism, using both Bible teaching for church people (especially children) and contextualizing that same teaching for non-church people, making it understandable to them, in terms that they know and use outside of a church context.

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 10:09