

PRAYER:

Dear Father, we give thanks and praise to you for the gift of your Son. The message from you and Jesus is that you long for another to join the kingdom. Lord there is always room for just one more The one missing is loved, is sought, is welcomed. Your search is endless Father; help us to be active seekers on your behalf for the missing ones you seek.

Amen

SONG: “ Give me oil in my lamp” (No 85 Altogether now)

1. Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray,
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
Keep me burning, ‘til the break of day.

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
Sing hosanna to the King of kings:
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing hosanna to the King.*
2. Make me a fisher of men, keep me seeking ...
Keep me seeking ‘til the break of day.
3. Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing ...
Keep me singing ‘til the break of day.
4. Give me love in my heart, keep me serving ...
Keep me serving ‘til the break of day.

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BIBLE REAINGS:

- John 1:35—42,

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by , he said “Look the Lamb of God”! When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked “What do you want? They said “Rabbi” (which means ‘Teacher’) “where are you staying?” “Come” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. **The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him “we have found the Messiah”** (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said “You are Simon son of John. You will be called “Cephas” (which when translated, is Peter).

- John 6:8--11

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up: “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” Jesus said

“Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

Message: Just One More

Recently we visited the Church of our youth. Birkenhead Methodist Church (building), which had been converted to a house. Very nice, VERY expensive. As we climb to the upstairs area we could see the old timber beams of the Church—touch them in fact. Then our thoughts turned to the Church full of the faithful, the Sunday school platforms reaching up, full of kids – nostalgia took over. The memories were very real, for a time past when the Christian faith held its rightful place in society. But our God is not a God of the past, and longing for the return to the “good times” (and our youth!) however, will not bring one person to know Jesus today.

What is important now and tomorrow is that our God longs for every single person to connect with him. There are over eight billion people in the world, but our Lord still longs for each one of them. There is an old saying relating to being overloaded___ ‘it’s the extra straw that breaks the camel’s back’. Not so with God; he is never overloaded!

The Bible reading from John 1 tells us something of Andrew the fisherman who was an early believer in Jesus. Verses 40- 42 tell us that very soon after Andrew heard Jesus’ message he went straight to his brother Simon to share the good news – just one more! Then Simon (Peter) came to Jesus who looked at him and said straight off (insight that only Jesus could possess) “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called CEPHAS (Peter)” NIV bible. We know what Peter did for the emerging faith Acts 2;40-41 (plus 3000!), and how bold he was -Acts 2:38-42, all because Andrew brought just one more!!

But we are not done with Andrew yet! Let’s turn to another “Andrew moment” John 6:8—9 Here the people are hungry—what to do? Andrew brings the boy with the 5 loaves and 2 fish to Jesus. The miracle of the feeding follows. We do not hear a lot more about Andrew, but he continues to be named amongst the 120. Acts 1:12. Andrew was a man of possibilities, seeing another to bring to faith. Did Andrew realise what he was doing? Who knows, but as we can also do, he brought what he could, and trusted Jesus for the rest...

Who is it that we can bring? Just one more. It’s natural to sometimes lament what was, and how good it was. But looking back too intensely, too often is not helping the Kingdom now. Our God in Jesus calls us to live now! And to be in the world now (John 14).

Our Church (Sunset Rock) has recently opened a café (The Shared Table) aimed at attracting young families to the place, including a toddlers play area, and the congregation is being challenged to be ready to encourage and welcome newcomers reached through connections made via the café.

Jesus’ ministry is impregnated with references to the lost – the “just one more’s”:

- The lost coin
- The lost pearl

- The lost son

One missing matters. Consider the recent search in W.A. for the missing woman near Beacon W.A. Nothing was too much trouble, people, helicopters, vehicles, etc for days until, praise God, she was found.

HopeNet has had a connection with Dr Daniel Shayesteh (read “The House I left Behind”) and his ministry into the middle East. *It* is an ongoing search for Just one more.

Saint Andrew’s ministry and search for just one more took him to many places. To this day he is the patron saint of Russia, Scotland, and Greece. He was eventually crucified on a cross of this kind X (called saltire). Check out the Scottish flag, and Ireland flag. Andrew thought himself unworthy of the cross of Jesus, so when the Romans killed him in Greece, he asked for the saltire instead of the Calvary cross.

In looking at what Andrew had to offer there lies a message for all Christians. Andrew used what gifts he had to bring people to Jesus—then trusted Jesus for the rest...

PRAYER FOR OTHERS”

Lord God, join us in our search for just one more. Strengthen and encourage us in the desire to bring another to your table.

In and through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray,
Amen

SONG “Father I Thank You” (S I S No 269) Steve Stewart

1. Father I thank you for all that you have done
You gave your Son freely for me
And I praise you for calling me, drawing me near,
Out of blindness you called me to see.
2. Spirit of life, you are God’s holy fire
You’ve kindled my heart with your blaze
And I know you’re refining me, changing my life
And by faith you’re revealing your ways.
3. Jesus I need you as Lord of my life
I give all I have unto you,
Lord I want to come under your heavenly hand
And to praise you in all that I do.

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