

Daily Devotional, February 23, 2021 Be a Difference Maker

"Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Acts 2:18, 21 (NIV)

Life as we know it, continues to go on for the rest of the world after a person dies, and sometimes, for those grieving the most, there is the feeling that the world should be a little more respectful. Life appears completely normal for the rest of the world and that just doesn't feel right for those grieving. Why doesn't everything just shut down for a while? Well, it doesn't. To the rest of the world, it's as if nothing has happened.

It's enough to make life seem expendable, almost unimportant. We follow a routine and watch the days and years roll by. We can sometimes feel like an unnoticeable grain of sand on a vast seashore. After all, how can one life make a difference in such an enormous and hectic world?

In the year 1912, medical missionary Dr. William Leslie went to live among and minister to the tribal people in a remote corner of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After 17 years of service, he returned to the U.S. a completely disheartened man, believing he failed to make an impact for Christ. He died nine years later.

In 2010, a team of missionaries from World Ministries made a startling discovery. They found a network of reproducing churches hidden in the dense jungle where Dr. Leslie had been stationed. Throngs of people were multiplying because of how God had used one man who earnestly wanted to serve God. How sad that he never knew the results of his labor for Christ.

Only God knows if Dr. Leslie himself knew he had reached even one soul before he left. Chances are he did not, because he was discouraged enough to leave, thinking that his efforts were in vain. But God was working in the lives of the people who heard the Gospel message, and in God's timing, many people were brought to Christ. One single life made a huge difference for the glory of God, and it is most likely accurate to say that the effects of that one life are still being felt today.

Andrew was John the Baptist's disciple. When John proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God, Andrew left John and followed Jesus. The next thing we know is that Andrew brought his brother Simon (Peter) to meet Jesus. It's clear that Andrew loved his brother. He wanted to share what he believed was the most important relationship they could ever have—a relationship with the one sent by God. He was convinced Jesus was the Messiah, and he wanted to give his brother Peter a chance to know Him as well. This was God's Spirit working in Andrew's heart. This was God preparing the way for a rugged and salty fisherman to be transformed into an effective instrument in the hands of God.

Andrew's desire to bring someone to Jesus started an apostolic journey that impacted the world in ways far greater than he could ever have known himself!

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit." Ephesians 1:13 (NIV)

Prayer: God, I know You give Your promised Holy Spirit to all those whom You have saved. Your Spirit is a defining mark of Your people. I pray that Your Spirit will continue to dwell in me, that I may do Your work in reaching the lives of others and that Your Spirit will fill and seal them through Your Word that they might come to believe the truth of Your Gospel. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.