

THE BACKSEAT WORKER: WE'RE ALL KNOWN SOMEHOW

When I was in my early 20's I was at a church picnic. A man whom I had not seen in several years came up to me and we began to visit. His teenage daughter came and joined the conversation. Her dad asked her if she knew who I was. She said, "Yes! He's Mrs. Julien's boy!" My mom had been her grade 4 Sunday school teacher. I guess we're all known somehow! (There's worse things to be known as!)

Read John 1:29-42.

The Backseat Worker

What is a backseat worker? What is a front seat worker? Why is there a difference? How can the two work together in everyday life? How do they work together in the Father's kingdom?

1. Name as many of the 12 disciples as you can along with something about them. For example: Judas—betrayed Jesus.

2. Andrew's reputation was that of Simon Peter's brother (I guess we're all known somehow). He was one of the initial two followers of Jesus, so why are some of the other disciples better known? What was the first thing Andrew did? (vs. 41)

3. Is one worker in the kingdom more important than another? I once read this about Andrew—that he was a leader, but not at the head of the procession. How many of us can relate to Andrew?

4. How do we, on a daily basis, balance the tension between self-glory and the glory of God and the

advancement of the cause of Christ?

5. Is it as simple as saying you're either a back-seat worker or a front-seat worker? If not, why not?

6. Think of a time when you felt slighted at home, work, church because you felt like you didn't get the attention or credit you felt you deserved? (If you and the group are comfortable with it you can share your story.) How did you deal with this? What other ways might you have dealt with it? Again, (sharing is optional) have you ever felt uncomfortable because of the attention you were getting? Why? How did you deal with that?

7. Take another look at Andrew—he was one of the first two disciples. John becomes known as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." Andrew is known as Simon Peter's brother. (We all have to be known somehow).

The New Testament is full of the exploits of Peter but not those of Andrew. Four fishermen, Andrew, Peter, James and John. Three have great apostolic fame and then there's Andrew, whom we don't know as much about. Do you think this was ever a problem for him? If you were he what might you have done about it? Why?
8. Andrew can be seen as a great contact man for the cause of Christ. This is also who we are, contacts for spreading the wonderful news of Christ and Him crucified. In the last words of our closing hymn, "Hark, The Voice of Jesus Crying" LSB

#826, we pray, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

We're all known somehow. The most wonderful way we are known is as a follower of Christ!

Closing Hymn and Prayer:

"Hark the Voice of Jesus Crying"
LSB #826

Good and gracious God we thank You for this day that You have given us. We pray for Your strength and direction to serve You as You will. We pray that our focus in all we do is on You and all You have done for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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