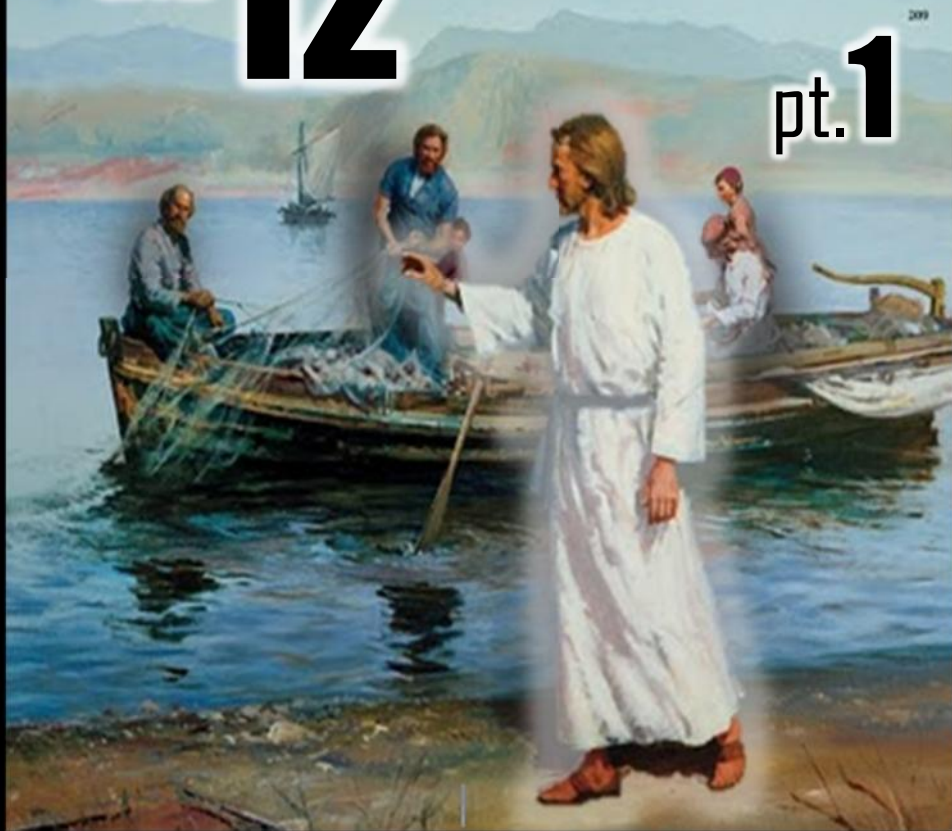


# “the 12”

pt. 1



## *Our Spiritual Ancestors Their Faith and Failures*

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From the Pulpit Ministry of Christ E Free Church  
February and April 2016

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Jesus Christ  
Our Highest Calling  
Our Greatest Purpose  
Our Soul's Source and Joy  
And Our All-Consuming Passion

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## INTRODUCTION

In the church today, I find 2 things typically lacking. (1) People who desire to be discipled by an older, more mature believer and (2) people who are interested in disciping others.

These are generally who support the Great Commission, but have redefined the Great Commission to be a sharing of the gospel, performed by an evangelist, who has the gift of evangelism and (*thankfully*) they don't have the gift.

When we hear the world disciple, what do you think about? A super hero type of person? A religious fanatic? Or a deeply, devoted servant of Jesus Christ?

For some, living a life of true discipleship is not even on their radar. Being saved, going to church, singing in the choir and some other safe activities are enough for them. Surely God doesn't expect a person to go overboard on all this does He?

For some, being a great commission honoring disciple-maker is for others, but not for them. For some Christians, other things like distractions, competing interests and pursuits keep them busy and their consciences clear. Hindrances and snares keep them from putting Jesus first and giving Him their everything.

This series is about learning from <sup>the</sup>**12**. AS our spiritual ancestors, their faith and failures hold life lessons for each of us.

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“... let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance...”

-Hebrews 12:1b

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# “the 12”

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# “the 12”

## Our Spiritual Descendants

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**Text:** Variety

July 10, 2016

**Theme:** “the lives of the Twelve disciples

“Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain  
until I come, what is that to you?”

***You follow me!”***

- John 21:22 (ESV)

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To understand and reconnect with our stories,  
the stories of the ancestors, is to build our identities.

--Frank Delaney

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### INTRODUCTION

“the 12” are the men Jesus chose to be “with Him”.(Mk.3:14), in order to train and prepare them to carry on His ministry in His absence and as they reached the world.

I think that we sometimes view Jesus’ disciples as being on the level of comic book super heroes. “Oh, yeah there’s, Peter, James

and John; Spiderman, Flash and the Green Lantern, Thaddeus, Wonder Woman, Thomas and the Hulk.

Look around you this morning. Anyone you see qualify for a super hero / disciple category? The fact is, Jesus' disciples were not people of super hero status, but they were those in whom Jesus saw super potential. And yet the people we see, as we look around us today, are the same caliber and potential of people that Jesus chose as “the **12**”.

As we begin learning about the 12 disciples, we have to understand what a disciple was. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, his last words to His disciples were for them to “make disciples of all nation”; that is to make learners of Jesus, so that they would become true believers in Jesus.

**A Follower** – were those who literally went with Jesus; and accompanied him. Again the idea is that the people who were following Jesus, were travelling around with him, hearing and watching him. Maybe they were interested, or perhaps just curious.

**A Disciple** – was a pupil or a learner. The idea is that the people who were disciples, were hearing Jesus' teaching and, claims and were learning about the Truth of God's word, the kingdom of Heaven, and about Jesus Himself. A disciple was someone who was becoming a student of Jesus teaching; gaining information, making observations and building faith in Him.

Followers may have had more of a curiosity. Whereas disciples, were more interested in what He had to teach them. However today, both a disciple and a follower of Christ are usually referred to as those who are devoted, passionate and are striving to be obedient to Christ.

## JESUS AND THE PEOPLE

Jesus called people to follow Him, before He invited them to believe in Him.

**John 1:39** He said to them, "**Come and you will see.**" So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day....

Jesus invited people to follow Him and hear and see and determine for themselves who Jesus was. Then some of the people who followed Jesus and saw, invited others to do the same. We know that Jesus called Philip to follow Him. He did and then Philip found Nathanel.

**Joh\_1:46** Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "**Come and see.**"

Jesus met a Samaritan woman at the well, and when she went back to her family, she proclaimed...

**Joh\_4:29** "**Come, see** a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"

And many in her village, came to believe in Christ through her testimony.

When Jesus rose from the grave, the women were confused and frightened and the angels told them....

**Mat 28:6** ESV He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. **Come, see** the place where he lay.

“Come and see” *for yourself*. Jesus invited people to follow Him, and to see for themselves and base their faith on first-hand information of who He was and what He taught.

## Followers

Many of the people in Jesus’ crowd were followers. There were a wide variety and different levels of interest and desire and knowledge. People followed Jesus for different reasons.

**Mar 3:7** ESV Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great ***crowd*** followed, from Galilee(v8) and Judea (Tyre and Sidon)

Jerusalem is about 60 miles, plus or minus, south of Gallilee and Sidon was about the same distance North. So people were travelling 100 miles or more to see and hear Jesus. And remember, there were no automated means of transportation. They traveled by horse, donkey, camel, wagon or foot and none were quick and comfortable means of traveling.

**Mat 13:2** ESV And great ***crowds*** gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach.

**Luk 9:16** And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the ***crowd***.

This was 5000 men, plus women and children.

**Mar 2:15** ESV And as he reclined at table in [Levi’s] house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his ***disciples***, for there were ***many*** who followed him.

Here a distinction is made between Jesus' genuine disciples and those who were merely *followers*. Some followed Jesus at a distance, and were more curious than interested. To some, Jesus extended a personal invitation to come and follow, while others found Jesus and His teachings to be of interest and they followed Him to hear more. Some saw miracles and followed Him for what He had done.

**Joh\_12:18** The reason why the ***crowd*** went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

This sign referred to here was the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Now that gathered a crowd. There are a variety of *Followers* of Jesus today, as well. People who communicate openness or superficial interest, but keep a safe distance and their lives indicate a lack of real faith or no true commitment to Jesus Christ. These were His "followers".

This morning there are no doubt a variety of levels of interest and commitment to Christ among us.

## Disciples

Others in the life of Jesus were his disciples. And there was also a variety of disciples or learners of Jesus.

### i) there were the "fringe" disciples

The *fringe* are those who sat and listened to Jesus teachings and may have verbalized "amen" at his messages or complimented Him on his passion and conviction. But their interest was short lived.

**Joh 6:66-69** ESV After this many of his disciples turned back and *no longer walked with him*. (67) So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" (68) Simon Peter answered him,

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, (69) and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

**Q:** How did they come to know? By following, observing, listening, and learning for themselves. They were convinced by a first-hand understanding of His claims and evidence, through which faith was produced. This is what separates the fringe followers from the devoted disciples of Jesus; (1) total dependence, (2) genuine faith, and (3) confidence in Who Christ is and what He has done.

**ii.) then there were the “12” disciples / apostles**

These would be the main 12 disciples we often refer to. These will be the focus of our study for the remainder of this series.

**Luk 6:13-16** ESV And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named ***apostles***: (14) Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, (15) and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, (16) and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Jesus named these original 12 disciples, “*the Apostles*”. “The term “***Apostles***” is a NOUN. It was not meant to be a title of recognition nor of position, at this point, but a reference to purpose.”

“***Apostle*** = a person who was to be a delegate or an ambassador;

**Mar 3:14** ESV And he *appointed* twelve (whom he also named apostles) so <sup>1</sup>that they might ***be with him*** and <sup>2</sup>he might send them out to preach [Lk.9:1-2]

“Appointed” = to be Ordained, chosen or assigned;

“Apostle” = “To be sent out” = action VERB – to *apostle* or to set apart or sent out with a purpose. The purpose here was to preach about the kingdom of God. Later on, following the ascension of Jesus and Pentecost, Peter is preaching and delivers a powerful message concerning the Christ.

**Act 4:13** ESV Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized *that they had **been with Jesus***. [Mk.3:14]

**Luk 9:1-2** ESV And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, (2) and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

v.6) They went village to village, preaching and healing. Sometimes we picture Jesus just willy-nilly walking and indiscriminately calling people out of the crowd. But Jesus spends the night in prayer<sup>[Lk.6:12]</sup> and after that, he calls His disciples to Himself, and out of those, he specifically chooses “<sup>the</sup>**12**”.

### **iii) Then there were the “72”**

These were also deeply devoted disciples, but outside the circle of the twelve, called apostles.

**Luk 10:1** ESV After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

**Luk 10:17** ESV The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"

He appointed or specifically and purposefully chose them. These were others Jesus had called to follow Him and become devoted and powerful servants for Christ. These may also have been people whom the 12 had met and invited to Follow Jesus and discipled themselves.

He called the twelve or invited or commissioned them. Now Jesus called and commissioned these “72” as well, to go out in ministry together in groups of “2s”. The people whom Jesus called to be *with him* were closest to Him. And the people who were closest to Jesus, were those upon whom He placed higher expectations and greater responsibility.

## **JESUS AND HIS INVITATION: “FOLLOW ME”**

Remember Jesus calls men to follow Him, before He invites them to believe in Him.

**Mat 4:18-22** ESV While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. (19) And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (20) Immediately they left their nets and followed him. (21) And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. (22) Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

## **Redirected Lives**

For those who accepted Jesus Call, He changed their purpose for living. Jesus offered them a life of higher purpose and meaning.



**Mat.4:19** And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

The would no longer be fishing for fish, but they would be “fishing” for men, for Christ’s kingdom. From catching fish to catching men or winning souls or making devoted disciples of Jesus. Now their lives will have eternal meaning and purpose.

**Luk 19:10** ESV For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

That was the purpose of Jesus’ life and He invites others to make His purpose, their own. These men who were to carry on Jesus ministry were rough cut individuals and many of them were smelly fishermen. These didn’t have what we might refer to today as adequate people skills or leadership capabilities for the tasks for which they were chosen.

But God has a flair for picking people, whom the world would not expect.

**1Cor. 1:25-29** ESV For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (26) For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. (27) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (28) God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, (29) so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

God chose a shepherd boy to be king of Israel. He even used an Adulterer. He chose a stutter and a murder to lead His people out

of Egypt. And He chose 12 very ordinary men to “[turn] the world upside down.”(Acts17:6)

God chose uneducated fishermen and a despised tax collector. He chose a betrayer and a denier. He chose the socially unacceptable and disrespected of the society. Talk about bad choices of personnel from the world’s perspective - these men had more flaws and weaknesses “than you could shake a stick at”. And yet, they were chosen by God!

### **These left everything and followed**

The Disciples saw the greater value of Kingdom ministry.  
Regarding Simon and Andrew...

**Mat 4:20** ESV (20) Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

And regarding James and John the sons of Zebedee...

**Mat. 4:22** Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

These men were mostly uneducated by their culture’s standards, but by no means were they ignorant people. They had families, and family businesses. These men left certain family members, and businesses, to follow Jesus.

Consider Zacchaeus; Not one of the 12, but believed to be one of Jesus’ devoted disciples.<sup>[Lk 19:2-10]</sup>

**Luk 19:8** ESV And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."

Zacchaeus also becomes a contrast of character with the Rich Young Ruler<sup>[Lk.18:18]</sup>. Both Zacchaeus and the Rich Young Ruler

were wealthy men, but one was self-righteous and would not give up his possessions, while the other gave half his possessions to feed the poor.

### **Whatever happened to Zacchaeus?**

According to Clement of Alexandria, in his book Stromata, Zacchaeus was surnamed Matthias by the apostles, and took the place of Judas Iscariot after Jesus' ascension. Luke told us that Matthias in the beginning was with Jesus since the baptism of John (Acts 1:21-23). John also told us that later many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him (John 6:60-66).

Some early church tradition, identify Zacchaeus the publican as the first bishop of Caesarea. [*Apostolic Constitutions*, 7.46] While it is possible this could be true, it is also possible that this is unverifiable tradition. Perhaps with the persecution that broke out after Stephen's death Zacchaeus, who lived in relatively nearby Jericho, moved to the coast. Caesarea was an important city, and as a former Roman employee Zacchaeus may well have felt at home there. He probably was a well-educated man, and the Biblical account shows us an exuberant personality.

All of these ideas may seem to fit together well, still we cannot be certain. Nevertheless, it should not surprise us. From a hated collaborator with the enemy, to one proclaiming forgiveness and new life in Jesus Christ, Zacchaeus shows us the power of Jesus to truly transform our lives. [revsjbraun.blogspot.com]

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What it also shows is that it is possible that a person can be very excited about Jesus, can truly believe in Jesus, and experience a genuine and dramatic, changed life. In fact a person can even appear in the pages of Holy Scripture like the story of Zacchaeus,

and yes, the contribution of that person's life can remain unknown and obscure, at least to the rest of the world.

Disciples don't become disciples in order to earn themselves a place in history. Disciples become disciples because they are truly devoted to Jesus Christ and truly desire to make a kingdom impact for Him.

## **DISCIPLESHIP TODAY**

Who does Jesus call today and how do those who are called respond to His call? Some of us are curious fringe followers, while others may be deeply devoted disciples, who are seeing, reaching and discipling others for Christ.

### **No one Special**

Some may think, "I'm just no one special. God could never use me." All the disciples had areas of weakness and frailty. In fact, as we will see in the lessons ahead, some at times, could even be considered failures.

### **God used them in special ways**

Those who accepted the invitation to follow and become His disciple, received not only expectation and responsibility, but the ability for the task as well.

<b>1Th 5:24</b> ESV He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.
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"God uses, those He Chooses" Their faith was used by God. They also had their share of failures. At the time when Jesus may have needed them the most, the disciple fled, scattered and left him alone.

<b>Mat 26:55-56</b> ESV At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture
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me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. (56) But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

## CONCLUSION:

The people who were closest to Jesus, were those upon whom He placed higher expectations and responsibility. "Come and Follow Me" was an invitation to lay aside the ordinary, the drudgery, the temporary, the monotonous, the safe and take up the challenge to leave everything, even lose everything,

"Come follow me" was a pretty straight forward invitation, but it had very open ended possibilities, with not a lot of specifics attached to it. Following Christ also refers to imitating Christ, living as Christ lived, and loving as Christ loved. <sup>[1Jn2:6]</sup>

As true believers in Jesus Christ, will we be fringe followers? Or devoted disciples? As we give ourselves to Christ, what will He do with us? How will He use us? What will become of us? It is a pretty opened ended invitation with few specifics.

These are probably the same questions the 12 had. Jesus didn't answer all those questions up front, but as they lived and served Christ, their meaning in life and purpose for living came into focus.

"the **12**" are now a part of history and have important lessons for us today. Let us join the 12 and step into history that is being made every day and with every decision we make. May history show that we, with the 12, were faithful to the end, to follow and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.





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# **“The Life and Times of Peter”**

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# "the Life and Times of Peter"

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**Text:** Variety

July 17, 2016

**Theme:** "the 12: their faith and failures"

{ "And I tell you, you are **Peter**, and on this **rock** I will build my **church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."  
-- Matthew 16:18 ESV }

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Walking on water is not a natural occurrence. It is proof of supernatural empowerment in the natural world."

\_\_\_\_\_  
-rp journey

## INTRODUCTION

As we read through the New Testament, we notice there is more information about the faith and failures of Peter than any of the other 12 apostles. We also notice that we find ourselves asking the question, "why in the world did Jesus choose Peter?"

But if the truth were told, we would probably find ourselves relating to more of his faith and failures than we would care to admit.

Peter would not have been the choice for what many look for in a leader today. Confidence. Charisma. Wisdom. Stature. A born leader of men. A skilled orator. Visionary.

**1Cor. 1:25-29** ESV For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (26) For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. (27) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (28) God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, (29) so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

It is important to note that when it comes to “leadership”, Jesus views the process of leadership development as important as the task of leading, itself. Jesus’ selection of the apostles was not based on who they were or what they had done, but on what they would become, as He worked through their individual lives.

**Luk 6:12-16** ESV In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. (13) And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: (14) Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, (15) and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, (16) and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

#### *A Few Familiar Facts about Peter...*

- Peter was a fisherman.
- He was married.

- Peter is known as one of the more outspoken of the 12 disciples.
- His name was originally Simon and was one whose name Jesus changed.
- Peter is believed to have been one of the followers of John the Baptist.

**Mat 4:18-22** ESV While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. (19) And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (20) Immediately they left their nets and followed him

Today we examine a few of Peter's life experiences and the faith-building, leadership-developing process he went through in preparation for the assignments which Christ would give him.

## THE PERSONALITY OF PETER

Peter was not a "look before you leap" kind of guy. Nor was he "slow to speak and quick to listen".

### Impetuous and unpredictable

Peter seemed to be one of those people who just barreled head-long through life. He was impetuous and predictably *unpredictable*. He often spoke or acted before thinking. He is often referred to as one who often stuck his foot in his mouth. Quite often, he didn't seem to exercise wisdom or good judgment. Some experiences of Peter's life we may be more familiar with.

### Peter on the water

**Mat 14:25-29** ESV And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. (26) But when the disciples saw him

walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. (27) But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." (28) And Peter answered him, "**Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.**" (29) He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

Was this an act of courage or simply Peter doing what Peter often did, which was not really taking time to think things through? It's hard to say, but this kind of behavior seemed to characterize Peter's life.

### **Peter and the fish**

**Joh 21:4-7** ESV Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. (5) Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." (6) He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. (7) That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, **and threw himself into the sea.**

Instead of helping pull in the fish or rowing the boat back to shore, Peter rashly jumped into the water and swam to Jesus.

### **Wreckless in his Responses**

Peter often failed to demonstrate common sense or self-restraint.

#### **(i) He displayed wreckless responses**

#### **Peter and Malchus**

**John 18:3-10** ESV So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers

and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. (4) Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" (5) They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. (6) When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. (7) So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." (8) Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." (9) This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." (10) Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

Interestingly, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all record this event, but only John records both the names of Peter the assailant, as well as Malchus, the victim.

Peter is depicted here as being wreckless in his responses. This was not the best idea, as there were many soldiers present who could have either arrested him or simply taken him out with their own swords. Nor was it the intent of Jesus for such a response to take place, as He saw this as part of the Father's plan in bringing Him to the cross.

#### **(i) He spoke Wreckless words**

Peter's words were not mean spirited, but they clearly indicated he had not fully understood his potential future with Jesus and the possible cost he would face.

**Mat 26:34-35** ESV Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." (35) Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, ***I will not deny you!***"

How those words have echoed through history. Faced with Christ's prophecy of Peter's denials, Peter offers these wreckless words of confidence. No doubt they came from a genuine heart of allegiance for Christ, but they would prove only to be promises that he would soon break and regret.

Peter was a Galilean and the historian Josephus described the Galileans this way, "They were ever fond of innovation and by nature disposed to change and delighted in sedition. They were ever ready to follow the leader and to begin an insurrection. They were quick in temper and given to quarreling and they were very chivalrous men."

The Talmud says this of the Galileans, "They were more anxious for honor than for gain, quick-tempered, impulsive, emotional, easily aroused by an appeal to adventure, loyal to the end." Peter was a typical Galilean.

Was Peter good material for leadership? Remember, Jesus is not looking at what He was then, but at what He will eventually become.

## **PETER'S FAITH WAS TESTED**

There comes a time in every believer's life when their faith is tested – a time when what we know and believe is put to the test and challenged by what we experience. Peter had a faith lesson that every true leader of Christ must learn. This is one of those lessons

that are only really learned the hard way. Head knowledge has to eventually be translated into life experience.

### **Walked on the water and sank**

Peter learned the lesson of personal powerlessness.

**Mat 14:30** ESV But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me."

Some may consider this a “faith failure” for Peter. But we have to give him some credit. After all, while he may have sunk, the reality is, the man walked on water! Peter was probably uneducated for the most part, but he wasn’t a fool. He knew you can’t walk on water, at least naturally. Surely we see that, while it may have been a wreckless chance that Peter took, yet it was wreckless faith. Personally, I find it difficult to criticize him.

### **In his crisis of fear he denied Christ 3 times**

While Peter takes the rap, the truth is all the disciples reacted much the same way.

**Mat 26:31** ESV Then Jesus said to them, "You *will* all *fall away* because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

Then as Jesus was being arrested, people identified Peter as being one of Jesus disciples.

**Mat 26:72** ESV And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man."

But while Peter verbally denied Christ, all the disciples physically abandoned him. So which is worse?

**Mat 26:56b** ESV ....Then all *the disciples left* him and fled.

What would I do in if I were in Peter's situation? I think I would not deny Christ, but not being faced with those circumstances, I cannot be so proud as to say "I would never do such a thing!". There's a good chance I'd be worse than Peter.

Let us be very careful how we point the finger at Christ's disciples, we are probably no better than they.

## PETER'S FAITH WAS TRIUMPHANT

Our faith is always in a state of "becoming". And true leaders are always in the process of "developing".

### Professed faith in Christ

Peter is also known for his great profession of faith.

**Mat 16:13-18** ESV Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" (14) And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." (15) He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" (16) Simon Peter replied, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" (17) And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. (18) And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Various religions have misinterpreted this passage all over the place! "On this rock" would be this kind of confident faith in Christ, or these kinds of faith-filled people, who are pleasing to God. As a result, the powers of hell will not defeat a faith like that.



“Thank You” Peter, for an example of this kind of confident, courageous profession of faith in Christ.

### **Evidence of Empowered faith**

After the resurrection of Christ and Pentecost, Peter and others were dramatically changed. A faith that was wreckless became a faith that was courageous.

**Act 2:36** ESV Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Especially after Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit of God upon the Church, their faith formation and leadership developing process was put into fast forward.

When Peter's famous sermon in Acts 2, we see a profound change and perhaps an unexpected fulfillment from Christ's promise to make them "fishers of men".

**Mat.4:19** Jesus said, "follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Then we read...

Acts 2:41, 'about 3000 souls were added to the Kingdom.'

As one writer put it, "Pretty good catch, Peter".

### **Suffered Imprisonment for his faith**

Peter suffered persecution and imprisonment for his faith in Christ. He also experienced a miraculous deliverance. King Herod had just executed the Apostle James and now he had Peter thrown into prison.

**Act 12:5-11** ESV So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. (6) Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. (7) And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. (8) And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." (9) And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. (10) When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. (11) When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

Peter's faith was always in the process of formation. And his leadership abilities were always in the process of developing. Yet, it was John and Peter's faith that others saw, that caused the crowd to recognize that "they had been with Jesus". <sup>[Acts 4:13]</sup>

## **CONCLUSION:**

The people who were closest to Jesus, were those upon whom He placed higher expectations and responsibility. "Come and Follow Me" was an invitation to lay aside the ordinary, the drudgery, the temporary, the monotonous, the safe and take up the challenge to leave everything, even lose everything,

“Come follow me” was a pretty straight forward invitation, but it had very open ended possibilities, with not a lot of specifics attached to it. Following Christ also refers to imitating Christ, living as Christ lived, and loving as Christ loved.

**1Jn 2:6** ESV whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Peter’s life is now a part of history and has important lessons for us today. Let us join the 12 and step into history being made every day and with every decision we make. May history show that we, with the 12, were faithful to the end, to follow and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. And realize our faith is still being formed and our leadership abilities are still being developed.

**Church History tells us that Following Pentecost, Peter** did evangelistic and missionary work among the Jews, going as far as Babylon. Tradition says he was crucified, head downward, in Rome.

Unlike many of the disciples, we can identify well with Peter. His shortcomings of little and faltering faith in Christ are all too common in our own lives (Matthew 14:28-30). However, throughout scripture, he is known as the Rock (Matthew 16:18). From Pentecost onwards, he would become a "Pillar Apostle" (Galatians 2:9) and a foundational stone for the other apostles. ([www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org))

Peter wrote the epistles of 1 & 2 Peter, focusing on the return of the Lord, Christian suffering for the name of Christ and spiritual growth.

Although the Bible does not say this, tradition (the historical records that have been handed down to us) tells us that Peter was

crucified on a cross upside down. This took place during the time of Nero who was ruler of the Roman empire. Peter did not feel that he was worthy to die the same way His Lord died, so instead he was crucified in a different way-upside down.

Death for the believer is not the end, it is just the beginning! Death is just the doorway that brings the believer into eternity and into the presence of His Saviour. Peter knew that he would put off his temporary "tent" or "tabernacle" which was his body, but he also knew that being "absent from the body" meant being "present (at home) with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8).

If you were to die today, where would you spend eternity? Are you ready to die? Are you willing to live - in a manner in which the whole world knows who you belong to?

### **Peter's Effect on the World**

- 1) His lessons in God's Inspired holy Scripture.
- 2) the message he gave following Pentecost move many to believe and follow Christ.
- 3) the mistakes Peter made, not only give us examples of what not to do, but encouragement that those whom Christ chooses and calls are not super human people, but those whom Christ is pleased to empower and use as they obey and faithfully follow Christ.
- (4) When Jesus saved you and called you, He didn't just see you as you were. He saw you for who, by His grace, you would become, with great potential for His kingdom work.
- (5) No matter how unskilled or unqualified you may think you are, God sees you as a leader in the making.

QQ: How do you see yourself?



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# **“James and John Sons of Thunder”**

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# "James and John"

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**Text:** Variety

*July 24, 2016*

**Theme:** "the 12: their faith and failures

**Title:** "James and John" -

"Immediately they... followed him."  
--Matthew 4:22 ESV

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Loud noises – anyone can be loud and boisterous. Volume may cause people to hear, but it cannot make them listen".

\_\_\_\_\_  
--rp journey

## INTRODUCTION

A man once told Leonard Ravenhill, "If you see a man carrying his cross outside the city, you knew he wasn't coming back." Joe Warsak used to say, "Many people wear a cross, but not many are willing to nail themselves to it." Discipleship is all about the cross. It cannot be avoided! Jesus invited his disciples to take up their cross and follow Him. The cross is a symbol of death, self-denial and personal sacrifice. Jesus did not choose "the **12**" because of their talents or their character. They weren't chosen because of

who they were or for what they had done. Jesus chose the 12 because of what they would become as their lives were surrendered to the hands of the Master.

### **JAMES AND JOHN (Mk.3:13-19)**

\* Prior to choosing the 12, Jesus spent the night in prayer. <sup>[Lk.6:12]</sup>

**Mark 3:13-19** And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. (14) And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach (15) and have authority to cast out demons. (16) He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); (17) James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); (18) Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, (19) and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

*First we consider who these men were.*

#### **Identification of James**

This disciple's name was actually *Iak bos* the Greek language, taken from the Hebrew *Iakōb*, which was “Jacob”, a good Jewish name. When the New Testament translators, came to names like this, sometimes instead of “transliterating” it, (translating letter for letter) they translated it into a cultural name.

In the New Testament, there were 3 main men, known as James.

One was James, the brother of Jesus, referred to in Gal.1:19. A second was James, the Son of Alphaeus, who was another Apostle



named James, and listed in the lineup where the Apostles are mentioned.(Mat.10:2; Mk.3:17; Lk.6:14).

The third was James the Son of Zebedee and whose brother was John, and this is the James referred to in our study today.

**Mar 3:17** ESV *James* the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder);

There are not many references individually, of what James did in terms of ministry in the New Testament. Most of the gospels refer to him, in the collective references of “the 12”.

### **Identification of John**

There are many more specific references to John in the New Testament. John wrote the gospel of John, the epistles of John (1, 2, 3 John) and the book of Revelation. Several times in the gospel of John, John refers to himself as “the disciple whom Christ loved”. John was also imprisoned with Peter (Acts 4:3). Peter and John healed a crippled man (Acts 3:1-6).

## **THEIR STORY & WORK IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

(Mat.4:22

### **Their Sacrifice**

**Mat 4:22** ESV Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

#### i) “they Left the boat”

“They left the boat” (Mat.4:22) This boat was the fishing business and their livelihood. It was their source of income and provision

for them and their families. It represented present financial stability, and future hope, from an earthly perspective.

ii) “they left...their Father

How hard would it be to walk away from the family business, but also from *the family itself*? As a Father, I have been thinking about this section. What would have been the feelings between Father and sons? Will Dad understand? Will he approve of what we feel we must do? “Sons, have you thought it through?” “Dad, we have to do this!” Will my sons really go through with this? Why must my sons leave me now? “Do you think Dad understands?” “How could he possibly?”

Did Dad beg them to stay? Did they ever once look back? How would Zebedee break this to his wife? How would “mom” respond or ever understand? The shock. The emotion. The questions. The wondering. “Are we doing the right thing?” “Are they doing the right thing?”

We are not told of the specifics of the family discourse, only what is important for this lesson. All we are given is that when Jesus called them to follow Him, they *immediately* left the boat (business) and their Father, (family relationships) and followed Jesus.

Forget about the financial issues involved here. The heart-breaking family experience would have been incomparable to anything else in the story. Zebedee did not just lose two partners in the business, but two sons. We are left with the gut-wrenching image of Dad, alone in the boat, watching his sons walk away.

[Lk.9:61]

The example of James and John certainly does present us with a Biblical example of what it means to truly follow Jesus.

**Luk 9:59-62** To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." (60) And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." (61) Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." (62) Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Thank you to James and John and Zebedee. AS tough as that must have been, nevertheless we are left with an example that it can indeed be done.

### iii) James' life

We are also told of a greater sacrifice, which was his life, which we will consider further at the end of this lesson.

**Act 12:1-2** About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. (2) He killed James the brother of John with the sword,

St. Chrysostom reminds us of our Lord's prophecy in Mark 10:38 ff. (Matthew 20:23), distinguished thus from the James of Acts 1:13. Possibly his prominent position, and his characteristic nature as a son of Thunder marked him out as an early victim. So is the case of John the Baptist (Mat.14:10). This mode of death was regarded as very disgraceful among the Jews (J. Lightfoot, Wetstein), and as in the Baptist's case so here, the mode of execution shows that the punishment was not for blasphemy, but that James was apprehended and killed by the political power. For

the touching account of his martyrdom narrated by Clement of Alexandria, see Eus., *H. E.*, ii., 9. [Expositor's Greek Testament]

### **Their Gain**

\* Matthew record's Jesus' teaching that the disciples must not be overly concerned about the needs of this life. As they left everything and followed Jesus, all resources for providing for their day to day living we also left behind. In Matthew chapter 6 Jesus encourages them not to worry about what they will eat, or drink, or about their clothing or shelter or retirement, etc. Instead He offers this liberating hope for all God's servants.

**"But seek first the kingdom of God  
and his righteousness, and all these things  
will be added to you." --Mat 6:33**

Perhaps this was the kingdom principle the disciples were considering. God first, then trust Him for the rest. It certainly can make life and ministry, simpler.

But there was another gain they needed to know about.

**Mar 10:29-30** ESV Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, (30) who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

\* We learn the value of the kingdom of heaven and the family of God. Some may hear of the wonderful gain identified above and think, "oh, that's it? Then forget it." In other words, being blessed by a global spiritual church family, may not be your idea of

priceless, personal gain. But that is exactly what it is intended to convey. Jesus did not promise to replace what we give up. But He did promise to reward us with what we didn't expect, yet exactly what we will need.

## ii) Their Experience on the Mount

They also gained something that not all the 12 were privy to. The “3”, Peter, James and John, were invited deeper into the Garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus was praying, “Father, if it is your will, allow this cup to pass from me...” [Mat.26:37-39]

Also, It was Peter, James and John who were personally and exclusively invited by Jesus to accompany Him up to the “mount of Transfiguration”.

**Mat 17:1-5** ESV And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. (2) And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. (3) And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. (4) And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." (5) He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

This mount was where they were eyewitness to the glorious, transfiguration of Jesus from his earthly body, into, what scholars consider as a preview of His glorious resurrected state.

**“Was transfigured”** - That fullness of the Godhead, which dwelt bodily in Christ, now shone forth through the human nature, and

manifested to his disciples not only that Divinity which Peter had before confessed, (Mat.16:16), but also the glorious resurrection body, in which they should exist in the presence of God to eternity. [Adam Clarke]

They were eyewitnesses of Jesus being temporarily yet gloriously changed into, what appears to be, His future, resurrected state. There, they also saw Moses and Elijah. They also witnessed them dialoguing together. Not only that, but they heard the voice of God the Father stating, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Understanding a bit of this experience, we understand why James' brother John, would describe their personal experience as he did in John chapter one and v.14.....

**Joh 1:14** ESV And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Not merely a reference to the 12 seeing the earthly glory of Christ displayed in his many mighty miracles, but the divine heavenly brilliant glory of the transfigured Christ right before the very eyes of John and his brother James, and Peter.

## **Their Personality**

These men were far from perfect. Much like we are.

i) their interest and focus was on self

**Mar 10:33-39** ESV saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. (34) And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise." (35)

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." (36) And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" (37) And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." (38) Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. **Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?**" (39) And they said to him, "**We are able.**" And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink *you will* drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, *you will* be baptized..."

ii) Their fiery disposition

James and John, sons of "thunder", *indeed*. As followers of Christ, they were a bit self-focused. As Jesus was ministering to Samaritans, many did not receive Jesus nor his message.

**Luk 9:51-55** ESV When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. (52) And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. (53) But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. (54) And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "**Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?**" (55) But he turned and rebuked them.

**Joh 3:17** ESV For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Luk 19:10** ESV For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

They were rough cut, loud mouthed, and at times mean spirited. This is no kind of response for a servant of Christ. They lacked self-control, good judgment and acted inappropriately. There is no place for harsh spirited, servants with uncontrolled tongues and spirits. For a shepherd in the Church of our Lord Jesus, here are some of the qualifications –

**1Tim. 3:2-3** ESV ....must be sober-minded, **self-controlled**, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, (3) not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome...

**Tit 1:6-7** For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain...

We may be tempted to think, why are these men even in ministry? Oh yes, we remember, Jesus personally selected them. Because He did not choose them for what they were, but for what they would become. We need to realize, though James and John may have a way to go and it will take several years, yet they will change. God will mold them and change them, into Holy Spirit consumed servants, that will turn the world upside down.(Acts 17:6)

## THEIR LIVES AND LESSONS TO US

Following the resurrection of Christ and then Pentecost, the New Testament writers note dramatic changes in the lives of the Apostles. Much of the potential that Christ saw early on, began to manifest itself.

### James Life and Martyrdom

Unfortunately James' ministry did not extend beyond the NT records.



**The Martyrdom of James** - Concerning the death of James, we do not need to depend upon tradition or historical records that have been handed down to us. The Bible clearly tells us about the death of James.

James was the first of the 12 disciples to give up his life as a martyr. He was not the first Christian martyr. But he was the first of the disciples to be killed, and his death took place about 14 years after the resurrection of Christ.

**Act 12:1-3** ESV About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. (2) He killed James the brother of John with the sword, (3) and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.

**Act 12:21-24** ESV On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. (22) And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" (23) Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. (24) But the word of God increased and multiplied.

The words of Jesus in Mark 10:39 were fulfilled. James did drink of the cup of suffering just as Jesus had promised. Yet that did not hinder the spread of the word of God and the message of Christ, but in fact it seemed to accelerate it.

We must remember that the sword did not bring an end to James' life; it only brought an end to his earthly existence. As soon as the sword brought physical death, James was "absent from the body"

and “present with the Lord”. (2 Cor. 5:8).

[MiddletownBibleChurch.org]

### **John's Life and Martyrdom**

John was with Peter and James on the mount of Transfiguration: (Mat.17:2) He was also with Jesus in the Garden as He prayed in anguish. (Mat.26)

It was Peter and John who discover the empty tomb John 20, and John was part of the team when the lame man is healed.(Acts3) And it was Peter and John who were arrested for preaching the gospel and then released (Acts4).

One tradition says that John was sent bound to Rome and under orders from Emperor Domitian he was condemned to be cast into a caldron of boiling oil. God worked a miracle, and the oil did him no harm. Whether this occurrence really happened we cannot be sure, but we do know that God promised to protect His apostles in amazing ways (Mark 16:18). This story reminds us that a believer cannot die until his work is done. God still had work for John to do! For further information on the persecution of first century men, refer to *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*.

John was exiled or banished to a little island called Patmos (Revelation 1:9). It was here that he wrote the book of Revelation and where God showed him some amazing things about the future.

John was the *last* disciple to die. His brother James was the *first* disciple to die (Acts 12:1-2) This should remind us that God has a different plan for each believer. God had a plan for James, and God had a plan for John. God has a unique plan that is especially fitted for each individual. In John 21:18-22, we learn that God had different plans for John and Peter.

Do not expect God to deal with you the same way He deals with other believers. God may allow some things to happen to you that do not happen to others. **GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR EACH PERSON. JUST TRUST HIM. GET YOUR EYES OFF OTHERS** (John 21:21-22) and **FOLLOW CHRIST!**

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **i) LESSONS FROM JAMES**

James was a man who had his good points and bad points. At times he was a fervent son of thunder who needed to calm down and have a more merciful spirit about him. He was a man of ambition and pride and Jesus needed to give him a lesson in humility and true greatness. James was a devoted follower of Christ who left all to follow his Master. He stayed close to the Lord and was part of the "inner circle." He served Him faithfully to the end, and he was the first of the 12 disciples to die and enter into the presence and joy of Christ.

As you think back to the life of James, can you find yourself in this man? Loud. Opinionated. Brash, harsh, speaking your mind while hurting others? Are you lacking in self control, governed by a fiery temper? Yet changed. As you think about your life today, can you find James in you? What are his good points that you share? What are his weak points that you share? [Middletown Bible church]

Lessons for the church today,.

An uncontrollable tongue is a dead giveaway of an unconverted heart, that is not surrendered to the Lordship of Christ. Some revel in their harsh attitudes and coarse words to others.

Some know their words and attitudes are not pleasing to God and yet they continue to live that way, continue to excuse themselves for the harsh attitudes and words, and continue hurting others.

Seek the Lord's transformation in your life. Allow God to change you from who you are, into the person He desire you to become.

### **i) LESSONS FROM JOHN**

God is in the business of change. He will change His disciples.

From the Son of Thunder, John became the great "Apostle of Love" and his epistle (1 Jn) became known as the gospel of love.

Though he faced death, God preserved him until his earthly tasks were complete. How are you living? Are you pursuing and participating in the tasks God has placed before you? Do you do all for His glory?

Christian! Serve Christ with all your heart and you will one day hear, "Well Done, good and faithful servant."

You will not be sorry!



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# **“Andrew the Seeker”**

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# "Andrew the Seeker"

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**Text:** Variety

July 31, 2016

**Theme:** "the 12: *their faith and failures*"

Andrew first found his own brother Simon and said to him,  
"We have found the Messiah"... He brought him to Jesus.

--John 1:41-42b

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"Those who desire to share good things of life with others, show  
themselves to be grateful recipients of what they have. "

--rp journey

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## INTRODUCTION

The "12" – As we go through our study on "the 12", our focus for today is the life of Andrew. And of those who we've observed so far, Andrew looks like he is further along, spiritually, than the others.

That may or may not be a fair evaluation, but at this point, that is how it appears. At least from John's gospel, Andrew has a bit of a spiritual head start on the others, as we will see.

*A little bit about...*

## THE BACKGROUND OF ANDREW

Andrew was called to Follow Jesus, yet he was not called to be just a follower or an observer.

### One of “*the 12*”

Andrew was one of the original 12 disciples, or as they became to be known as, *the apostles*. An Apostle is a “sent one”. An Apostle is one who is called by God and ordained by God. An Apostle is purposed to be used by God, and Andrew was one of those **12**, or one of the “sent ones”.

And as we typically see of the “12”, Andrew follows Christ as a result of Chris’s calling, not merely out of curiosity, as we will see.

**Mat 4:17-20** ESV From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (18) While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and **Andrew** his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. (19) And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (20) Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Andrew was specifically, chosen and invited by the Lord Jesus, to follow Him and become one of the original 12 “sent ones”.

As we learn more about Andrew, we see that he is one who has a positive influence on the others. He was a peace maker, a situational “fix-it” person. He was also a stabilizing influence on the 12 and just seems to be the kind of guy you couldn’t help but like and by whom one could not keep from being influenced. Andrew was one who was not afraid to connect with others.



## Only a fisherman

Andrew was also a fisherman by trade. James and John were brothers, as were Peter and Andrew. The 4 of them were in business together.(Mk.1:16).

Luk 5:10 ESV and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

Why "afraid"? For years, his purpose for getting up in the morning was to catch fish. But now, no more. A man's gotta have purpose!!

But do not fear, you will still have a purpose, even greater than before. You will no longer catch fish, but you will catch *men*, in the nets of the gospel of the message of the kingdom of God.

## A Good Beginning

Andrew had a very good beginning. He initially followed Jesus out of genuine interest, not merely curiosity. The beginning of Andrew, at least from the Biblical records, is that he was first, **a follower of John Baptist** and as a result, may have had a bit of a head start on the others.

It seems that Andrew may have been dissatisfied with his present spiritual state and was therefore, already seeking a deeper spiritual life.

**Joh 1:35-40** ESV The next day again John was standing with *two of his disciples*, (36) and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (37) The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. (38) Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you

staying?" (39) He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. (40) One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was **Andrew**, Simon Peter's brother.

So, early on, he was a disciple of John the Baptist. Early on he sought a deeper spiritual life and initially found that as one of John's disciples. But as John's message was preparation for the Messiah, so were His disciples being prepared to meet Jesus.

**\*\*Perhaps there** were people in your life who influenced you and helped prepare your heart to meet and receive Christ. Before Andrew followed Jesus, he was influenced by John the Baptist. Who were some of those people of influence in your life? Take a minute to think about that and list some of them. Ever think of attempting to contact those people and thank them for their contribution into your spiritual life? I have. I would encourage you to attempt to contact some of those people and thank them for their spiritual influence and direction in your life.

That is a little of Andrew's background, up until he began following Jesus.

## **ANDREW HAD AN INTEREST IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS**

### **A disciple-making disciple**

Andrew goes down in history as one of the very first disciple making disciples. He clearly had an interest in the spiritual state of others. And once Andrew found Jesus, He spent a day with him. Then Andrew influenced others to follow Jesus.

**Joh 1:41-42** ESV He [**Andrew**] first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). (42) **He brought him to Jesus.** Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

Andrew found his brother Peter and helped Him meet Jesus. *In Acts 1:8* – Jesus said, “You shall be my witnesses...” In John 1:41, Andrew witnessed to Peter, “*We have found the Messiah!*”.

*In Matt.28:19* – Jesus said to the disciples, “Go and make disciples...”. And in John 1:42, Andrew started with those closest to himself, which was his own brother Peter. “*And He brought Him to Jesus*”.

What an exciting example Andrew is. As someone who just found the Messiah, he didn’t wait until he was mature and established in his faith. He didn’t have to attend a training seminar on how to bring people to Christ. Those are only modern day requirements. No! The Bible tells us that he immediately found others to influence for Christ.

**\*\* Perhaps there** is at least one other person in your life who you could help and influence toward following and believing in Jesus. John influenced Andrew and Andrew influenced Peter. Who are some of the people God has placed in your life? Take a minute to think about them and list some of them. Begin praying for them. Attempt to connect with them in a way that would begin to point them toward Jesus. Don’t think, “I can’t do this.” Never let anyone convince you that you are “unqualified”, because we all really are unqualified, you know. Don’t be afraid to connect with others, in order to connect them to Christ and to other Christ followers, which is His church. That is the job of the Holy Spirit of

God -- To give courage -- To give the words. It is His job to actually go before you in preparing and opening the hearts of those to whom you will be sharing. We can certainly learn from experience, but never allow lack of experience hinder you from doing what you know God wants you to do. Never allow others to discourage you from serving Christ in the manner in which you feel He is calling you.

## End Times Interests

**END TIMES** – Andrew had a concern for the future. He had an interest in the Spiritual future.

**Mark. 13:1-4** (1) That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." (3) And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and **Andrew** asked him privately, (4) "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?"

Following the resurrection of Jesus, the Mount of Olives was the location from which He ascended into heaven, before their very eyes. After which, an angel appeared and told them, "*This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.*" [Acts.1:11]

It was Peter, James, John and **Andrew** who asked Jesus privately about the end times. Interestingly, as they sat there on the Mount of Olives, that would be the exact place where Christ would one day, return, in the last days.

**Zec 14:1-4** ESV Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. (2) For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. (3) Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. (4) On that day his feet shall stand on the *Mount of Olives* that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

Little did they realize that the very place they were sitting, would become the site of one of the most important world changing events of human history or should we say, human *future*.

Andrew genuinely had a spiritual interest in the future.

## **GIFTS AND INTERESTS**

Andrew had a great mix of gifts, interests and perspective.

### **He demonstrated A heart of compassion and faith.**

When Jesus fed the 5000, it was Andrew who was interested enough to offer his own input. Andrew was the one who identified the boy with a lunch. He may well have been a problem solver. When people had no food, he identified the boy with a lunch.

**Joh 6:8-9** ESV One of his disciples, **Andrew**, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, (9) "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?"

Andrew's interest in solving problems and coming up with solutions, mixed with faith in Jesus, resulted in a great combination

for a true disciple. He doesn't seem like a person who is easily stumped or discouraged. He may have been one of those people who just does what it takes to make life work. While he had no idea what would happen, he had faith enough to bring their dilemma before Jesus for Him to solve. Andrew may not have known the answer, but he knew where to go to get the answer.

### **The Father answered the Son's prayer**

During Holy Week, Andrew was one who was with Jesus who Heard the voice of God from heaven

**John 12:22-29** ESV Philip went and told Andrew; **Andrew** and Philip went and told Jesus. (23) And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (25) Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (26) If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (27) "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. (28) \* Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "*I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.*" (29) The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

Andrew was with Jesus and was privy to hear the Father's verbal, audible answer, to His Son's prayer.

**The Last time in Scripture where Andrew is mentioned by name.**

**Act 1:13-14** ESV And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. (14) All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

The last recorded Biblical info about Andrew is that...

**(1)** He met in the upper room with some of the other disciples. He had a commitment to fellowship with other true believers and disciples of our Lord Jesus.

**(2)** They were in “*one accord*”. In other words, they were united in heart and mind, with the same purpose and faith. Andrew was certainly a man of humility and well as a man of peace. How many of us, of the last words written about us, would read, “she was a woman of *unity*”, or “he was a man of *peace*”? I believe this is a Christ honoring epitaph.

**(3)** They were jointly devoted to prayer together, which was part of the preparation of Pentecost and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. A true person of prayer understands the power of prayer.

**Act 4:31** ESV And when they had *prayed*, the place in which they were gathered together was *shaken*, and they were all *filled* with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with *boldness*.

## A Lasting Legacy

We end with the legacy of Andrew and his death. The Bible does not tell us about Andrew's death. We must get our information

from historical records that have been handed down to us, and some of these records may not be very accurate. In one account we are told that Andrew was faithfully preaching in the area which today is known as Greece. Even to his death, he was still seeking to bring others to Jesus and to share his discovery with them.

Later in his ministry, Andrew preached the gospel in Ethiopia, around 80AD. Because he would not submit to the Roman idols, he was crucified by Aegeas, the governor of the Edesenes, and buried in Patrae, in Archaia. According to the tradition, one of the governmental leaders (the proconsul) was angry that Andrew was continuing to preach Christ and refused to stop. He commanded Andrew to join in sacrificing to the false gods of the heathen people. Andrew refused.

Then, the proconsul ordered that Andrew be severely scourged (whipped) and crucified. To make Andrew's death more lingering, he was fastened to the cross with cords rather than nails. Praising God and still telling others to come to Jesus, Andrew hung on the cross for two days before he finally died. The cross he died on was in the form or shape of an "X." Since the time of Andrew's death, this type of a cross has been called "St. Andrew's cross."  
[BibleInfo.com]

## **CONCLUSION**

He is the first to have the title of a disciple making disciple<sup>[Jn.1:42]</sup> as well as a Foreign Missionary. He is claimed by three countries as their Patron Saint - Russia, Scotland and Greece. Many scholars say that he preached in Scythia, Greece and Asia Minor.

Andrew introduced others to Jesus. Although circumstances placed him in a position where it would have been easy for him to become jealous and resentful, he was optimistic and well content



in second place. His main purpose in life was to bring others to the master. [BibleInfo.com]

Andrew had found the treasure of His search and the source of his life. He could not keep his friend to himself. He could not keep Jesus to himself. Not a great deal is said about Andrew in the Bible, but we know he was unashamed of our Lord and undeterred by threats of persecution.

**Rom 1:15-17** ESV So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. (16) For I am ***not ashamed*** of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Andrew is a great example for all of us, who would desire to be a genuine, deeply devoted disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ. Act 4:31 ESV And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. <sup>[1Cor.10:11]</sup>

**Some challenges for us,** from the life of Andrew.

**(1)** What is my level of genuine spiritual interest? Do I follow Christ out of curiosity, or genuine interest in spiritual matters? Andrew was interested, he pursued the source of his interest and he found it. That source was Jesus Christ.

**(2)** What is your level of disciple making participation? Of all the people in your life, within a given week, how many are you connecting with, with the purpose of attempting to help them get connected to Christ and to His church? It is not rocket science. It is

obedience. Discipling others is not necessarily doing something more or scheduling one more meeting into your week. But what it does involve, is doing what you are already doing, but with a different perspective. It involves making the most of the conversations with those whom God brings into your life. When God brings people into your realm or influence, do you think about “how can I influence this person for Christ?”

Discipling others does not necessarily take more time. It does take a different perspective – a different outlook on life. It takes seeing people in your life, not as religious “targets”, but definitely as those whom you can help connect to Christ, find forgiveness of their sins, nurture in their faith in Christ and be helping them experience eternity with Jesus Christ. Hey, I don’t care what your hobby might be. There is nothing better than this!!

**CPR Evangelism.** These are different levels of conversation that can enable us work toward pointing others to Christ.

**C = *Current Events*** and topics in the news. We all talk about this. This is the starting point of many and most conversations. We should not point fingers and belittle one another for talking small talk or “superficial” talk. That is how we test the waters to determine if others are open or even interested in what we may have to say. Can you imagine what life would be like if everyone started their conversations by catapulting themselves into the central focus of the conversations, telling all their problems, and hardships and self-focused stories? I’ll say it – “...*things would be a mess!*” While we may get a lot of “flack” from certain writers or social experts, the fact is, we simply need to have this level of safe, superficial conversation, *at least initially*.

**P – *Personal Interests and/or life stories.*** This is typically what people most like to talk about, if they get a chance. This is the level that people will share about their Grandchildren, their promotion, their accomplishments or their tragedies and woes. Many people genuinely like talking about their troubles, if only someone would listen. This is a deeper level of sharing and conversation, and maybe perceived as a trust building level.

**R = *Religious Beliefs and spiritual upbringing.*** This is a deeper level of sharing. Each level is like walking on ice. Each step is carefully taken, with the purpose of testing the ice to see if it is safe. Each level of conversation is a step, carefully taken to determine the safety of sharing and/or the interest of the listener.

This is the level of conversation and sharing that will help the listener to determine where the person is spiritually. Caution! It is also the level at which a debate is most likely to occur if you are not prepared to listen and to allow this to be a relational, bridge building process, rather than a doctrinal, belief correcting opportunity.

Each level of conversation can be seen as layers of an onion. As each level is pulled away, you get closer to the heart of the onion.

**EV = Evangelism.** This is potentially, the opportunity where an invitation is made for the listener to encourage the “talker” to possibly receive Christ as Savior. A clear, yet brief, gospel message can be presented. An invitation can be offered for profession of their faith in Christ. It may be appropriate for a prayer to be offered, for repentance, confession of sin and expression of faith in Christ. The fact that someone prays, does not guarantee their salvation. However please do not allow anyone to devalue, discredit or debunk the “sinner’s prayer”. Be

absolutely assured of this: If the person genuinely prays from their heart for forgiveness, it's a good prayer!!!!

Now is when the relationship must be pursued and connection maintained. If you help a person genuinely receive Christ, then you need to be the one who follows them up. Continue to converse with this person regularly. Talk all the more about their faith. Encourage them with helpful ideas about how they can nurture their faith. Offer to take them to church, or help them find a church in their area.

You would not abandon a new born baby. Neither should we abandon a new born baby Christian. They need nurturing. You may be the person to provide it.

\* Please consider other free, helpful downloads for spiritual growth and nurturing, including the CPR Evangelism guide.

<http://christefree.wix.com/christefree#!blank/cj90>



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# **“Philip and Bartholomew”**

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# Philip and Bartholomew

## *"Disciples in Training Apostles In the Making"*

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**Text:** Variety

August 7, 2016

**Theme:** Theme: the **12** Disciples: our spiritual descendants; Their Faith & Failure

{ “Philip *found* Nathanael and said to him,  
"We have found him of whom Moses in the Law  
and also the prophets wrote.." John 1:45 ESV }

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In any area of life, Development is Key. Growth is Crucial.

Perseverance in non-negotiable.

—rp journey

### INTRODUCTION

Today I want us to leave, remembering this principle.

***"YOUR LIFE HAS A BIGGER PICTURE."***

If you are a Christian, then you are a disciple in the making and there is a purpose for which you are being trained.

“The 12. These are the men whom Jesus picked to be those who would be with Him, to be growing into servants of the kingdom and who would carry on his Ministry once he was gone. These were the 12 disciples, who were named, Apostles””. Jesus chose these men, not because of who they were, or for what they had done. They were chosen because of who they would become. When they answered the call to follow Jesus, they became disciples in training and Apostles in the making.

**Mar 3:16-19** ESV He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); (17) James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); (18) Andrew, and **Philip**, and **Bartholomew**, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, (19) and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

*A little bit about...*

## THE BACKGROUND OF PHILIP

PHILIP means “fond of horses”.

### Philip was a man who recognized the Messiah

We are told how Philip met the Lord Jesus.

**John 1:43** The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found **Philip** and said to him, "Follow me." (44) Now **Philip** was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. (45) **Philip** found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Once Philip found Jesus what do you think he did first?



**Joh 1:45** ESV Philip *found* Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Fist Philip found Nathanael and told him about Jesus. In John 1:41, Andrew found his brother Peter and brought him to Jesus, stating, "we have found the Messiah". Then Philip found Nathanael Bartholomew and declared, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote,..." (Jn.1:25)

What does it mean to you, that you have found Jesus? Do we keep that to ourselves? Or do we joyfully and passionately seek to share Him with others? Are we interested enough as Andrew and Philip were? Eagerly finding others, in order to help them find Jesus.

At Christ E Free or mission is *"to connect with others in order to connect them to Christ and to other Christ followers, the church."*

I hope you have memorized that mission statement by now.

### **Philip heard the voice of God (Jn.12:22, 28)**

Philip was also with Andrew when God the Father, verbally answered the prayer of Jesus. (John 12:28) I have glorified my name and will glorify it again." And the people there thought they had heard angels speak.

So Andrew found Peter and Philip found Nathanel Bartholomew. Both were eager to help them to connect with Christ.

### **It was to Philip that Jesus promised they would do greater works than He. (Jn.12:22, 28)**

**Joh 14:8-12** ESV Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." (9) Jesus said to him, "Have I been with

you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? (10) Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. (11) Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. (12) "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

How hard would that have been to grasp?

Does “greater works” refer to a greater level of miracles? Does “greater” refer to a greater quantity of miracles, possibly referring to all the 12 and to all that they would one day disciple, through the ages? Much is written on this, but the key for them and for us today, Jesus was informing them that...

### ***“YOUR LIFE HAS A BIGGER PICTURE.”***

**People came to Philip to find Jesus (Jn.12:21-22)**

Joh 12:21 So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Joh 12:22 Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

People came to Philip, for him to help them find Jesus. Many need the same help today, but don't know how or where? Many need the peace, and joy and help and salvation that can only come from Jesus, but they don't know how?

Philip may have thought his day was going to be spent traveling or

fishing, but here he finds himself being approached by people searching for Jesus.

Are you ready and able to be available to help others who need Christ, but don't know how to go about trusting, receiving and following Him? This is what we are doing at Hayfield Estates through our summer outreach. That is the ministry of a true disciple of Jesus. It is what we are called to do. Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations." <sup>[Mat.28:19]</sup> This is what we know as the *Great Commission*.

## THE BACKGROUND OF BARTHOLOMEW

We have been referring to Nathanael as Nathanael Bartholomew. Bartholomew means "Son of Tolomai". In Matthew, Mark and Luke, the list of disciples mentions Bartholomew, but omits "Nathanael". But in John's list of disciples, Nathanael is mentioned but "Bartholomew" is omitted. Nathanael must have been the same person, referred to by a different name. Nathanael was his given name, and Bartholomew was his surname, kind of like a first and last name we have today. Nathanael Bartholomew would have been understood as Nathanael, son of Tolomai.

## BARTHOLOMEW

Mat.10:3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;

Mar.3:18 Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot,

Luk. 6:14 Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew,

Act 1:13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, **Bartholomew** and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.

### **Bartholomew Confesses Jesus (Nathanael)**

\* **NATHANIEL**— *Gift of God; God given*

**Joh\_1:45** Philip found **Nathanael** and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

**Joh.1:46** **Nathanael** said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Joh 1:47 Jesus saw **Nathanael** coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"

Joh 1:48 **Nathanael** said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Jesus saw and knew Nathanael before they had even met. Jesus revealed His deity. He is the all-knowing , Almighty God, the Son. Nathanael realizes that Jesus is much more than just a good man or an interesting teacher. Jesus evidenced that He was not of this world, but from heaven.

**Joh\_1:49** **Nathanael** answered him, "Rabbi, **you are the Son of God!** You are the King of Israel!"

Nathanael realized that this Jesus was actually the Son of God, the King of Israel.

**Q:** What do we know and believe about Jesus and do we profess that regularly? Is the character and nature of God, part of what we share with others? Or do we keep our distance from such content and simply stay with the safe, “God loves you”? (*Which, saves nobody.*)

My friend, Jesus sees and knows you. He knows what you *have* done and what you *will* do. He knows what you think about? Jesus evidenced His deity, when He saw Nathan at another place and time, when they were not even in the same proximity. Again, He the omniscient Almighty God. Jesus is the All-knowing Son of God – *GOD, the Son*.

No one knows you like God does. No one loves you like God does. God demonstrated His own love for us, “in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”<sup>[Rom.5:8]</sup>

## **LIVES, LESSONS, AND LEGACIES**

Each disciple of Jesus had influence on others. Today, each disciple of Jesus has influence on others, either good or bad.

**Q:** What influence do you have on others? What does your lifestyle tell others about the Christian life?

How you live is what you will be known for. How you live as a Christian, is what others will know and believe about Christianity, whether good or bad.

### **Philip**

There is some dispute over the events of Philip's later life and ministry. A second century Ephesian tradition believes he died at Hierapolis, roughly one hundred miles inland of Ephesus. Another

tradition says Philip was crucified; and as a result, medieval art often depicts Philip on the cross. [blueletterbible.org]

He was sincere in aim, yet perhaps defective in knowledge; for it was Christ who found him, not he who found Christ (Isa 65:1); and Jesus was Son of God, not of Joseph His reputed father, husband of Mary. To Nathanael's objection, "can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip replied with the best argument of experiential proof, "*come and see*" (Psa 66:16; Psa 34:8).  
[Faussett]

The last Biblical reference we have for Philip and Nathanael Bartholomew is in Acts 1. (The Philip mentioned in Acts 6 is another Philip who was selected as one of the first deacons.)

Act 1:13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, **Philip** and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.

They were joined together, constantly in prayer. They were together and experienced Pentecost together, as the Holy Spirit was poured out onto the believer's in Christ for the first time. <sup>[Acts2]</sup>

The "Martyrdom of Bartholomew" states that he was placed in a sack and cast into the sea. [ISBE] An inglorious end to the life of one of "the **12**".

## CONCLUSION

The last thing we read in the gospels, about Bartholomew or Nathanael is found in John 21:2. They went fishing with six

other disciples and Jesus appeared unto them (John 21:14). The Bible does not tell us anything else about this man.

In the Gospel of John, he is mentioned with the seven apostles during the Lord's last post-resurrection appearance (John 21:2).

However, little information is revealed about his life and ministry with Christ. According to Foxe's Book of Marytrs, he has been said to have preached throughout India and translated the Gospel of Matthew into their tongue. Later in his ministry, Bartholomew was beaten, crucified, and beheaded in Albinopolis, Armenia for the sake of his Master.

[blueletterbible.org]

He too shall receive the martyr's crown!(Rev.2:10)

[middletownbiblechurch.org]

### **LESSONS:**

(1) Philip found others to tell about Jesus. Bartholomew as a thinker, studier and a seeker.

(2) They allowed God to make them into the disciples God wanted them to become. They allowed God to train them for the purpose for which He had chosen for them.

Today...

### ***"YOUR LIFE HAS A BIGGER PICTURE."***

To every one of us, there is an opportunity to become a true disciple of Jesus.

(1) There is an invitation to follow Christ. That involves the initial beginning to learn of who He is and what He has done and taught.

(2) There is an opportunity to believe in Christ. This is where our Biblical knowledge begins to build genuine faith, in Christ as

God's only Son and our only Savior. We are convinced of who he is.

(3) there must be a willingness to be changed, into the image of Christ. (compare Rom.8:29; 2Cor.3:18; Col.3:10)

In 1978 I attended vocational school for 1 year of welding. For about 2 months we had classroom teaching. We learned theory, information, content and principle of welding. After that, came shop time. We spend 10 months of practical development of putting into practice the theory, information, content and principle that we had been taught in the classroom. Both were crucial in order to develop this trade.

The process is similar for a disciple of Jesus. Our life events and experiences are all part of our developmental process. Our challenges and trials are all part of our training process.

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***"SPENDING OUR LIVES IN THE CLASSROOM,  
MAKES NO ONE A DISCIPLE"***

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Time in the classroom is crucial. Discipleship cannot be discipleship without it. Likewise, shop time is crucial. Discipleship cannot be discipleship without shop time.

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***"YOUR LIFE HAS A BIGGER PICTURE."***

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(1) Realize God has chosen you.

(2) Realize God has chosen you for a purpose. Your events, experiences, challenges, and trial are all part of your purpose, your development and your training.

(3) Resolve in your heart to live for the purpose that God has for you.



Choose your own purpose for living or choose God's ***GREATER*** purpose for living. I think you will discover God's ***GREATER*** way of living is the ***BETTER*** way of living.





# ***Don't close this booklet yet***

*without considering this all important question.*

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## **Is Jesus Christ the Savior or *your* soul and the Lord of *your* life?**

Every person is born guilty of sin and in need of forgiveness.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;  
--Romans 3:23

Our sin is against God, therefore our forgiveness can only come  
from God.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only  
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should  
not perish, but have everlasting life. --John 3:16

God has appointed His Son as the payment for sins and sent Him  
to die in our place.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is  
eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
-- Romans 6:23

God's love is demonstrated through the sacrificial payment of  
Jesus Christ in our place for our sins.

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were  
still sinners, Christ died for us. ---Romans 5:8

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord  
will be saved." -- Rom 10:13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his  
name, he gave the right to become children of God,  
- John 1:12

Before you close this book, why not be absolutely certain that you  
are truly a citizen of God's eternal kingdom and loving family?

*Trust in Jesus Christ today and receive forgiveness for your sins  
and citizenship into God's family and His Kingdom.*

## The ABCs

**A** - Admit you have sinned and are in need of a Savior.

**B** - Believe Jesus died in your place, and you can no way help yourself.

**C** - Confess your sins to God. He already knows. Also Confess Jesus as you LORD. He desires and deserves to be your Lord.

**Prayer**: Take time to talk to God right now and open your heart and life to His instruction and leadership.

**Connect** with a local Bible believing, Christ centered church.

**Commit** yourself to meeting regularly with other Christians who are growing in their faith.

**Heb 10:24-25** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**Act 2:41-42** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

For more information or for spiritual help, please contact us at:  
Christ E. Free Church, PO Box 619, 19682 Hill Rd,  
Saegertown, Pa, 16433, Ph: 814-763-2934, [www.christefca.org](http://www.christefca.org)

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*It is our prayer that you find **Jesus Christ** to be...  
your highest calling,  
your greatest purpose,  
your soul's source and joy,  
and your all-consuming passion.*

Other Free Booklets downloadable at [www.ChristEFCA.org](http://www.ChristEFCA.org)

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*May each lesson bring a growing submission, a deeper obedience and an increase of the righteous reign of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the fullness of His Spirit, in His Church and throughout our mission field.*

*--- Downloadable free resources at: [www.christefca.org](http://www.christefca.org) --*

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