

The Twelve Apostles

February-March 2015

Naming the Twelve

(See also Luke 6 and Mark 3)

[Matthew 10:2](#) Now the names of the twelve Apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, James the sonne of Zebedee, and Iohn his brother: [3](#) Philip, and Bartholomew, Thomas, and Matthew the Publicane, James the sonne of Alpheus, and Lebbeus, whose surname was Thaddeus: [4](#) Simon the Canaanite, and Iudas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

The Twelve

(As provided by the holy Ghost in the 1611 Bible)

Who/Bio

Accomplishments

Strengths

Weaknesses

Life Lessons

Bible References

Occupation

Naming the Twelve (1611 Bible Names)

- 1. Peter or Simon Peter**
- 2. Andrew**
- 3. James, the Elder (Son of Zebedee)**
- 4. James (Son of Alphaeus)**
- 5. John**
- 6. Judas Iscariot**
- 7. Thaddaeus/Judas (Brother of James Son of Alphaeus)**
- 8. Matthew / Levi**
- 9. Bartholomew / Nathanael**
- 10. Philip**
- 11. Simon Zelotes (Canaanite)**
- 12. Thomas**
- 13. Matthias (Replaced Judas Iscariot in Acts 1)**

Apostles

<http://christianity.about.com/od/peopleofthebible/tp/12-Apostles.htm>

Peter: Without question, the Apostle Peter was a "duh"-ciple most of us can identify with. One minute he was walking on water by faith, and the next he was sinking in doubts. Impulsive and emotional, Peter is best known for denying Jesus when the pressure was on. Even so, as a disciple he was dearly loved by Christ, holding a special place among the twelve. Peter, often a spokesman for the twelve, stands out in the [Gospels](#). Whenever the men are listed, Peter's name is first. He, James, and John formed the inner circle of Jesus' closest companions. These three alone were given the unique privilege of experiencing the [transfiguration](#), along with a few other extraordinary revelations of Jesus.

Apostles

<http://christianity.about.com/od/peopleofthebible/tp/12-Apostles.htm>

Peter: After the resurrection of Christ, Peter became a bold evangelist and missionary, and one of the greatest leaders of the early church. Passionate until the end, historians record that when Peter was sentenced to death by [crucifixion](#), he requested that his head be turned toward the ground because he did not feel worthy to die in the same manner as his Savior.

(JD Comment: The bible only tells us that Jesus told Peter how he was to die in John 21:18-19. There is no mention of an upside down crucifixion in God's Word. This is a huge subject of the Roman Church and their use of inverted crosses)

Apostles

Babylon is the Church of Satan:

Rev 18:2 And he cryed mightily with a strog voyce, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of deuils, and the hold of euery foule spirit, and a cage of euery vncleane and hatefull bird: 3 For all nations haue drunke of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the Kings of the earth haue committed fornication with her, & the Merchants of the earth are waxed rich thorow the abundance of her delicacies. 4 And I heard another voice from heauen, saying, Come out of her, my people, that yee be not partakers of her sinnes, and that yee receiue not of her plagues:

Church of Satan-The Throne of Peter

Using the inverted cross to deny the true Christ



Is Ozzy
mocking
his God?



Mark 8:33 But when he had turned about, and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou sauourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

Accomplishments of Peter the Apostle:

After being invited by Jesus to come, Peter got out of his boat and for a brief few moments [walked on water](#) ([Matthew 14:28-33](#)). Peter correctly identified Jesus as the [Messiah](#) ([Matthew 16:16](#)), not through his own knowledge but the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. He was chosen by Jesus to witness the transfiguration. After Pentecost, Peter boldly proclaimed the gospel in Jerusalem, unafraid of arrest and persecution. Most scholars consider Peter the eyewitness source for the [Gospel of Mark](#) . He also penned the books 1 Peter and 2 Peter.

Peter the Apostle's Strengths:

Peter was a fiercely loyal man. Like the other 11 apostles, he left his occupation to follow Jesus for three years, learning from him about the kingdom of heaven. Once he was filled with the [Holy Spirit](#) after Pentecost, Peter was a fearless missionary for Christ.

Mark of the Beast foreshadowed: Peter swore, cursed, and made an oath that he did not know Jesus Christ.

James 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea, be yea, and your nay, nay: lest ye fall into condemnation.

Mat 26:74 Then began hee to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man.

Mat 26:72 And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. (while on a porch-See Zech 5)

Job 10:14 If I sinne, then thou markest me, and thou wilt not acquite me from mine iniquitie.

Job 31:30 - (Neither have I suffered my mouth to sinne by wishing a curse to his soule.)

Peter Needed Correction from God after he received the holy Ghost at Pentecost (see Acts 2):

- 1. Acts 11:1-10 Peter is reminded three times about what goes into the mouth does not defile a man, it is what comes out that defiles a man. He was reminded of the cursing and oath while denying Jesus Christ three times. We need an every Word Testimony to escape the wiles of the Devil. (See Eph 6.)**
- 2. In Galatians 2:11-21 Peter is confronted by Paul who tells him not to have the Gentiles live like Jews because they are not under the law. Peter was placing burdens on the Gentiles which were not of faith.**

Peter the Apostle's Weaknesses:

Simon Peter knew great fear and doubt. He let his passions rule him instead of [faith](#) in God. During [Jesus' final hours](#) , Peter not only abandoned Jesus but denied three times that he even knew him.

Life Lessons from Peter the Apostle:

When we forget that [God is in control](#) , we overstep our limited authority. God works through us in spite of our human frailties. No offense is too great to be forgiven by God. We can accomplish great things when we put our faith in God instead of ourselves.

Referenced in the Bible:

Peter appears in all four Gospels, the book of Acts, and is referred to in Galatians 1:18, 2:7-14. He wrote 1 Peter and 2 Peter.

Occupation:

Fisherman, a leader in the early church, missionary, [Epistle](#) writer.

Apostles

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...Andrew: whose name means "manly," was the first apostle of [Jesus Christ](#) . He had previously been a follower of [John the Baptist](#) , but when John proclaimed Jesus "the lamb of God," Andrew went with Jesus and spent a day with him. Andrew quickly found his brother Simon (later called [Peter](#)) and told him "We have found the Messias." (John 1:41) He brought Simon to meet Jesus. [Matthew](#) notes that Simon and Andrew dropped their fishing nets and followed Jesus as he was passing by.

The [Gospels](#) record three episodes involving the Apostle Andrew. He and three other disciples asked Jesus about his prophecy that the Temple would be torn down ([Mark 13:3-4](#)). Andrew brought a boy with two fish and five barley loaves to Jesus, who multiplied them to [feed 5,000](#) people ([John 6:8-13](#)). Philip and Andrew brought some Greeks to Jesus who wanted to meet him ([John 12:20-22](#)).

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Accomplishments of the Apostle Andrew:

Andrew brought people to Jesus. After [Pentecost](#) , Andrew became a missionary like the other apostles and preached the gospel.

Andrew's Strengths:

He hungered for the truth. He found it, first in John the Baptist, then in Jesus Christ. The Apostle Andrew is mentioned fourth in the list of disciples, indicating he stayed close to Jesus.

Andrew's Weaknesses:

Like the other apostles, Andrew abandoned Jesus during his trial and [crucifixion](#) .

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Life Lessons from the Apostle Andrew:

Jesus truly is the Savior of the world . When we find Jesus, we find the answers we have been looking for. The Apostle Andrew made Jesus the most important thing in his life, and we should too.

Referenced in the Bible:

Matthew 4:18, 10:2; Mark 1:16, 1:29, 3:18, 13:3; Luke 6:14; John 1:40-44, 6:8, 12:22; Acts 1:13.

Occupation: Fisherman

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...James was honored with a favored position by Jesus Christ , as one of three men in his inner circle. The others were James' brother John and Simon Peter . When Jesus called the brothers, James and John were fishermen with their father Zebedee on the Sea of Galilee. They immediately left their father and their business to follow the young rabbi. James was probably the older of the two brothers because he is always mentioned first.

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But James was not above making mistakes. When a Samaritan village rejected Jesus, he and John wanted to call down fire from heaven upon the place. This earned them the nickname "Boanerges," or "sons of thunder." The mother of James and John also overstepped her bounds, asking Jesus to grant her sons special positions in his kingdom.

James' zeal for Jesus resulted in his being the first of the 12 [apostles](#) to be martyred. He was killed with the sword on order of King Herod Agrippa I of Judea, about 44 A.D., in a [general persecution](#) of the [early church](#).

Apostles

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Accomplishments of the Apostle James:

James followed Jesus as one of the 12 disciples . He proclaimed the gospel after Jesus' resurrection and was martyred for his faith.

James' Strengths:

James was a loyal disciple of Jesus. ..

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James' Weaknesses:

JD comment: With his brother John, James desired to sit at God's right hand in Mark 10. Jesus said only the Father appoints.

Life Lessons from the Apostle James:

Following Jesus Christ can lead to hardship and persecution, but the reward is [eternal life](#) with him in heaven

Referenced in the Bible:

The Apostle James is mentioned in all four [Gospels](#) and his martyrdom is cited in [Acts 12:2](#) . (Herod by Sword)

Occupation:

Fisherman, disciple of [Jesus Christ](#) .

Apostles

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John the [Apostle](#) had the distinction of being a beloved friend of [Jesus Christ](#), writer of five books of the New Testament, and a pillar in the early Christian church.

John and his brother [James](#), another disciple of Jesus, were fishermen on the [Sea of Galilee](#) when Jesus called them to follow him. They later became part of Christ's inner circle, along with the [Apostle Peter](#). These three were privileged to be with Jesus at the raising of Jairus' daughter from the dead, at the [transfiguration](#), and during Jesus' agony in [Gethsemane](#).

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Accomplishments of John the Apostle:

John was one of the first disciples chosen. He was an elder in the early church and helped spread the gospel message. He is credited with writing the Gospel of John; the letters [1 John](#) , 2 John, and 3 John; and the [book of Revelation](#) .

John the Apostle's Strengths:

John was especially loyal to Jesus. He was the only one of the 12 apostles present at the cross. After [Pentecost](#) , John teamed up with Peter to fearlessly preach the gospel in Jerusalem and suffered beatings and imprisonment for it. Because John experienced the [unconditional love](#) of Jesus firsthand, he preached that love in his gospel and letters.

Apostles

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John the Apostle's Weaknesses:

At times, John did not understand Jesus' message of [forgiveness](#) , as when he asked to call fire down upon unbelievers. He also asked for a favored position in Jesus' kingdom. **Life Lessons from**

John the Apostle:

Christ is the Savior who offers every person [eternal life](#) . If we follow Jesus, we are assured of forgiveness and [salvation](#) . As Christ loves us, we are to love others. [God is love](#) , and we, as Christians, are to be channels of God's love to our neighbors.

Referenced in the Bible:

John is mentioned in the four Gospels, the [book of Acts](#) , and as the narrator of Revelation and 1,2,3 John Letters.

Occupation:

Fisherman, disciple of Jesus, evangelist, Scripture author.

Apostles

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Philip the [Apostle](#) was one of the earliest followers of [Jesus Christ](#) . Some scholars speculate that Philip was first a disciple of [John the Baptist](#) , because he lived in the region where John preached. Like [Peter](#) and Peter's brother [Andrew](#), Philip was a Galilean, from the village of [Bethsaida](#). It's probable they knew one another and were friends.

Philip the Apostle's Accomplishments:

Philip learned the truth about the kingdom of God at the feet of Jesus, then preached the gospel after Jesus' [resurrection](#) and ascension.

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Philip's Strengths:

Philip fervently sought the Messiah and recognized that Jesus was the promised Savior, even though he did not fully understand until after Jesus' resurrection.

Philip's Weaknesses:

Like the other apostles, Philip deserted Jesus during his trial and [crucifixion](#) .

Life Lessons from Philip the Apostle:

Starting with [John the Baptist](#) , Philip sought the [path to salvation](#) , which led him to Jesus Christ. [Eternal life](#) in Christ is available to anyone who desires it.

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Referenced in the Bible:

Philip is mentioned in the lists of [the 12 apostles](#) in [Matthew](#) , [Mark](#) , and [Luke](#) .

References to him in the [Gospel of John](#) include: 1:43, 45-46, 48; 6:5, 7; 12:21-22; 14:8-9; and Acts 1:13.

Occupation:

Early life unknown, apostle of [Jesus Christ](#) .

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Nathanael was one of the 12 original [apostles](#) of [Jesus Christ](#). Little is written about him the Gospels and [book of Acts](#).

Most Bible scholars believe Nathanael and Bartholomew were the same person. The name Bartholomew is a family designation, meaning "son of Tolmai." Nathanael means "gift of God." In [the synoptic Gospels](#), the name Bartholomew always follows Philip in lists of the Twelve. In the [Gospel of John](#), Bartholomew is not mentioned at all; Nathanael is listed instead, after Philip.

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Accomplishments of Nathanael:

Nathanael accepted Jesus' call and became his disciple. He witnessed the [Ascension](#) and became a missionary, spreading the gospel. **Nathanael's**

Strengths:

Upon meeting Jesus for the first time, Nathanael overcame his skepticism about the insignificance of Nazareth and left his past behind. He died a martyr's death for Christ.

Nathanael's Weaknesses:

Like most of the other disciples, Nathanael abandoned Jesus during his [trial](#) and [crucifixion](#) .

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Life Lessons from Nathanael:

Our personal prejudices can skew our judgment. By being open to God's word, we come to know the truth.

Referenced in the Bible:

Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14; John 1:45-49, 21:2; Acts 1:13.

Occupation:

Early life unknown, later, disciple of Jesus Christ.

Apostles

<http://christianity.about.com/od/peopleofthebible/tp/12-Apostles.htm>

Matthew was a dishonest tax collector driven by greed, until Jesus Christ chose him as a disciple. We first meet Matthew in Capernaum, in his tax booth on the main highway. He was collecting duties on imported goods brought by farmers, merchants, and caravans. Under the Roman Empire's system, Matthew would have paid all the taxes in advance, then collected from the citizens and travelers to reimburse himself.

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Accomplishments of Matthew:

He served as one of the [12 disciples of Jesus Christ](#). As an eyewitness to the Savior, Matthew recorded a detailed account of Jesus' life, the story of his birth, his message and his many deeds in the Gospel of Matthew. He also served as a missionary, spreading the good news to other countries.

Matthew's Strengths:

Matthew was an accurate record keeper. He knew the human heart and the longings of the Jewish people. He was loyal to Jesus and once committed, he never wavered in serving the Lord.

Matthew's Weaknesses:

Before he met Jesus, Matthew was greedy. He thought [money](#) was the most important thing in life and violated [God's laws](#) to enrich himself at the expense of his countrymen.

Apostles

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Life Lessons:

God can use anyone to help him in his work. We should not feel unqualified because of our appearance, lack of education, or our past. Jesus looks for sincere commitment. We should also remember that the highest calling in life is [serving God](#) , no matter what the world says. Money, fame, and power cannot compare with being a follower of [Jesus Christ](#) .

Referenced in the Bible:

Matthew 9:9, 10:3; [Mark](#) 2:14, 3:18; [Luke](#) 5:27-29; 6:15; [Acts](#) 1:13.

Occupation:

Tax collector, disciple of Jesus, gospel writer, missionary.

Apostles

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Thomas was one of [Jesus Christ's](#) 12 [apostles](#), specially chosen to spread the gospel after the Lord's [crucifixion](#) and [resurrection](#). The [Apostle Thomas](#) was not present when the risen Jesus first appeared to the disciples. When told by the others, "We have seen the Lord," Thomas replied that he would not believe it unless he could actually touch Jesus' wounds.

Jesus later presented himself to the apostles and invited Thomas to inspect his wounds. Thomas was also present with the other disciples at the [Sea of Galilee](#) when Jesus appeared to them again.

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Thomas' Accomplishments:

The Apostle Thomas traveled with Jesus and learned from him for three years. Tradition holds that he carried the gospel to the east and was martyred for his faith.

Thomas' Strengths:

When Jesus' life was at risk by returning to Judea after [Lazarus](#) had died, the Apostle Thomas courageously told his fellow disciples they should go with Jesus, no matter what the danger.

Thomas' Weaknesses:

[Like the other disciples](#), Thomas deserted Jesus [during the crucifixion](#). Despite listening to Jesus' teaching and seeing all his [miracles](#), Thomas demanded physical proof that Jesus had risen from the dead. His faith was based solely on what he could touch and see for himself.

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Life Lessons:

All of the disciples, except [John](#), deserted Jesus at the cross. They misunderstood and doubted Jesus, but the Apostle Thomas is singled out in the gospels because he put his doubt into words. It is worth noting that Jesus did not scold Thomas for his doubt. In fact, Jesus invited Thomas to touch his wounds and see for himself. Today, millions of people stubbornly want to witness miracles or see Jesus in person before they will believe in him, but God asks us to come to him in faith. God provides the Bible, with eyewitness accounts of Jesus' life, crucifixion and resurrection to strengthen our faith. In response to the Apostle Thomas' doubts, Jesus said that those who [believe in Christ](#) as Savior without seeing him—that's us—are blessed.

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Referenced in the Bible:

Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; John 11:16, 14:5, 20:24-28, 21:2; Acts 1:13.

Occupation:

The Apostle Thomas' occupation before he met Jesus is unknown. After Jesus' [ascension](#), he became a Christian missionary.

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James, son of Alphaeus, was also known as James the Less. He is not to be confused with [James the son of Zebedee](#), brother of the [Apostle John](#).

A possible third James appears in the [New Testament](#). He was the brother of the Lord, a leader in the Jerusalem church, and likely the writer of the [book of James](#). Could he be the son of Alphaeus?

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Accomplishments of James:

James was hand-picked by Jesus Christ to be a disciple. He was present with the 11 apostles in the upper room of Jerusalem after Christ ascended to heaven. He may have been the first disciple to see the risen Savior.

Apostles

Life Lessons from Book of James:

1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father, is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole Law, & yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

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Weaknesses of James the Less:

Like the other disciples, James deserted the Lord during his trial and [crucifixion](#) .

Referenced in the Bible:

[Matthew](#) 10:2-4; [Mark](#) 3:16-19; [Luke](#) 6:13-16; [Acts](#) 1:13.

Occupation:

[Disciple of Jesus Christ](#) .

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Simon Zelotes, one of [Jesus Christ](#) 's 12 [apostles](#) , is a mystery character in the Bible.

Accomplishments of Simon:

Scripture tells us almost nothing about Simon. In the [Gospels](#) , he is mentioned in three places, but only to list his name with the 12 disciples. In Acts 1:13 we learn that he was present with the 11 apostles in the upper room of Jerusalem after Christ had ascended to heaven.

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Simon Strengths:

Simon left everything in his previous life to follow Jesus.

Weaknesses:

Like most of the other apostles, Simon deserted Jesus during his [trial](#) and [crucifixion](#) .

Life Lessons:

Jesus Christ transcends political causes, governments, and all earthly turmoil. His kingdom is eternal. Following Jesus leads to [salvation](#) and [heaven](#) .

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Referenced in the Bible:

[Matthew](#) 10:4, [Mark](#) 3:18, [Luke](#) 6:15, [Acts](#) 1:13.

Occupation:

Unknown, then disciple and missionary for Jesus Christ.

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Thaddeus, one of [Jesus Christ](#) 's 12 [apostles](#) . Bible scholars generally agree, however, that the four names used for him all refer to the same person. In lists of the Twelve, he is called Thaddeus or Thaddaeus, a surname for the name Lebbaeus (Matthew 10:3)

The picture is confused further when he is called Judas but is distinguished from [Judas Iscariot](#).

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Accomplishments of Thaddeus:

Thaddeus preached the gospel as a missionary following Jesus' [resurrection](#). He also penned the book of Jude.

Thaddeus' Strengths:

Thaddeus learned the gospel directly from Jesus and loyally served Christ despite hardship and persecution.

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Thaddeus' Weaknesses:

Like most of the other apostles, Thaddeus abandoned Jesus during his trial and [crucifixion](#) .

Life Lessons from Thaddeus:

Jude warns believers to avoid false teachers who corrupt the gospel for their own purposes, and he calls us to staunchly defend the [Christian faith](#) during persecution.

Referenced in the Bible:

[Matthew](#) 10:3; [Mark](#) 3:18; [Luke](#) 6:16; [John](#) 14:22;
[Acts](#) 1:13; Book of Jude.

Apostles

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Judas Iscariot is remembered for one thing: his betrayal of [Jesus Christ](#). Even though Judas showed remorse later, his name became a symbol for traitors and turncoats throughout history.

Judas Iscariot's Accomplishments:

One of Jesus' [original 12 disciples](#), Judas Iscariot traveled with Jesus and studied under him for three years. He apparently went with the other 11 when Jesus sent them to preach the [gospel](#), cast out devils and heal the sick.

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Judas Iscariot's Strengths:

Judas felt remorse after he betrayed Jesus. He returned the 30 pieces of silver the chief priests and elders had given him. (Matthew 27:3.

Judas Iscariot's Weaknesses:

Judas was a thief. He was in charge of the group's money bag and sometimes stole from it. He was disloyal. Even though the other [apostles](#) deserted Jesus and [Peter denied him](#), Judas went so far as to lead the temple guard to Jesus at [Gethsemane](#), and then identified Jesus by kissing him. Some would say Judas Iscariot made the greatest error in history.

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Life Lessons:

An outward show of loyalty to Jesus is meaningless unless we also follow Christ in our heart. Satan and the world will try to get us to betray Jesus, so we must ask the [Holy Spirit](#) for help in resisting them.

Although Judas attempted to undo the harm he had done, he failed to seek the Lord's forgiveness. Thinking it was too late for him, Judas ended his life in suicide. As long as we are alive and have breath, it's never too late to come to God for forgiveness and cleansing from sin. Sadly, Judas, who had been given the opportunity to walk in [close fellowship](#) with Jesus, completely missed the most important message of Christ's ministry.

Apostles

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No matter how you react to him, here are a few biblical facts about Judas Iscariot to keep in mind:

He made a conscience choice to betray Jesus - Luke 22:48.

He was a thief with greed in his heart - John 12:6.

Jesus knew Judas' heart was set on evil and that he would not repent - John 6:70, John 17:12.

Judas' act of betrayal was part of God's sovereign plan - Psalm 41:9, Zechariah 11:12-13, Matthew 20:18 and 26:20-25, Acts 1:16,20.

Believers can benefit from thinking about Judas Iscariot's life and considering their own commitment to the Lord. Are we true followers of Christ or secret pretenders?

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Matthias Acts 1:23 And they appointed two, Ioseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Iustus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed, and said, Thou Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, 25 That hee may take part of this ministerie and Apostleship, from which Iudas by transgression fell, that hee might goe to his owne place. 26 And they gaue foorth their lots, and the lot fell vpon Matthias, and hee was numbred with the eleuen Apostles.

Conclusion

1. Peter or Simon Peter
2. Andrew
3. James, the Elder (Son of Zebedee)
4. James (Son of Alphaeus)
5. John
6. Judas Iscariot
7. Thaddaeus/Judas (Brother of James Son of Alphaeus)
8. Matthew / Levi
9. Bartholomew / Nathanael
10. Philip
11. Simon Zelotes (Canaanite)
12. Thomas
13. Matthias (Replaced Judas Iscariot in Acts 1)