

Sungkyul Global Church Newsletter

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. (Matt 28:19-20)

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The 12 disciples

Part 2 – Bartholomew, James, Judas

We continue on with our examination of the 12 men chosen by God to serve Christ during His earthly ministry, and to carry the gospel to the world once He returned to the Father. Last time we looked at Peter, James, John and Andrew. Here we will look at three more of these special men.



5. Bartholomew / Nathanael **Bartholomaios / Βαρθολομαῖος**



Bartholomew, Nathanael, son of Talmai, lived in Cana of Galilee. A number of scholars believe that he was the only one of the 12 disciples who came from royal blood, or noble birth. His name means Son of Tolmai or Talmai. This was not a first name, however; it was his second name. His first name was probably Nathanael, whom Jesus called "An Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile" (John 1:47).

Bartholomew's name appears with every list of the disciples (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14; Acts 1:13).

The New Testament gives us very little information about him. Tradition indicates he was a great searcher of the scripture and a scholar in the law and the prophets. He developed into a man of complete surrender to the Carpenter of Nazareth, and one of the Church's most adventurous missionaries. He is said to have preached with Philip in Phrygia and Hierapolis; also in Armenia. The Armenian Church claims him as its founder and martyr. However some traditions claim that he preached in India, and his death seems to have taken place there. Tradition claims that he died as a martyr for his Lord as he was flayed alive with knives.

6. James (the lesser or younger) **Iakōbos / Ἰάκωβος**



James, the Lesser or Younger, son of Alpheus, or Cleophas and Mary, lived in Galilee. The word lesser should be understood to mean “little” or “younger.” Some Bible versions call him “James the Younger,” but the word may also imply smallness of stature.

The New Testament gives us very little detail about James. He was it seems a faithful and loyal disciple. Tradition has it that it was James the Lesser who may have taken the gospel to Persia (modern Iran) and that he was martyred there. One tradition surrounding his death is that he was sawed into pieces.

7. Judas Ioudas / Ἰουδᾶς



Judas Iscariot, the traitor, was the son of Simon who lived in Kerioth of Judah. His name appears in three lists of the 12 Apostles (Matthew 10:4; Mark 3:19; Luke 6:19). It is said that Judas came from Judah near Jericho. He was a Judean and the rest of the disciples were Galileans. He was the treasurer of the band and among the outspoken leaders.

Some have claimed that Judas was a violent Jewish Nationalist who had followed Jesus in hope that through Him his nationalistic flame and dreams might be realized. No one can deny that Judas was a covetous man and at times he used his position as treasurer of the band to steal from the common purse. He is the supreme enigma of the New Testament because it is so hard to see how anyone who was so close to Jesus, who saw so many miracles and heard so much of the Master's teaching could ever betray him into the hands of his enemies.

The bible tells us that Judas hanged himself after he was filled with remorse for betraying Jesus.

The power of praying for others

► Intercessory prayer ◀



The Bible is clear that *all* Christians are called to be intercessors. What does it mean to be an intercessor? Very simply it means to act on behalf of another person. One of the things all believers are called to do is to pray for others.

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men (Timothy 2:1)

We call praying for others **intercessory prayer**. It means praying on behalf of, or praying for the spiritual well-being



of others. We see this modeled throughout the bible. In the Old Testament we see examples in the lives of Abraham, Moses, David, Samuel, Hezekiah, Elijah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. I encourage you for example to read Daniel chapter 9 where we see a wonderful depiction of intercessory prayer. In the New Testament we see examples of intercessory prayer in the life of the ultimate intercessor the Lord Jesus Christ and in the writings of the Apostle Paul.

But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” (Luke 22:32)

I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. (John 17:9)

In these examples we see Jesus praying for His disciples. Difficult and trying times would soon come upon them so He prays that they may stay strong and endure. Jesus also prayed on behalf of all His future followers.

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. (John 17:20-21)

We also see the importance of intercessory prayer modeled throughout the life and writings of the Apostle Paul. We witness on numerous occasions in Paul's letters the importance he places on pray. He calls for his readers to pray both for individual Christians, himself included and the church in general.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel. (Ephesians 6:18-19)

We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, (Colossians 1:3)

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. (Philippians 1:3)

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love. (Ephesians 3:14-17)

Intercessory prayer is a way of connecting with others in the faith and of bringing their concerns, needs and wants before our heavenly Father. It is a way of sharing one another's burdens, fears and concerns. It is, just for a moment diverting our attention from our own concerns. Something we all need to do from time to time.

God calls all Christians to be intercessors. It is God's desire that every believer be active in intercessory prayer. What a wonderful and exalted privilege we have in being able to come boldly before the throne of Almighty God with our prayers and requests. So I urge you all to be more deliberate and focused on praying for others.

“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them, and give thanks.”

1st Timothy 2:1