

Thaddaeus/ Lebbaeus/ Jude

Little is known of the tenth apostle, Thaddaeus, listed in Matthew's gospel (10:3). All we may truly conclude is that this man was called by three different names in Scripture. Matthew notes his name is "*Lebbaeus, whose surname is Thaddaeus.*" Yet, these two names are not found in Luke's gospel or in Acts. Instead, in both works Luke calls this apostle "Jude of James" (Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13).

John also refers to this apostle as "Judas" but is careful to distinguish him from Judas Iscariot. John 14:22 says, "*Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, 'Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?'*"

Smith's Bible Dictionary adds a further piece of information about this apostle saying, "Nothing is certainly known of the later history of the apostle. Tradition connects him with the foundation of the church at Edessa."

While we may know little, the little we do know may provide us with some edifying lessons.

First, Jesus used common men to do His work. Besides his triple identity, nothing stands out about this apostle. Yet, this is one of [the beauties](#) of the apostles. God used simple men to accomplish His greatest mission! Consider the power of this thought. These men could not flatter followers by their reputations, nor by their [riches](#). All they had was their eyewitness testimony to identify Jesus of Nazareth as "Lord and Christ." By choosing common men, Jesus avoided the faulty accusation that Christianity grew as a result of followers blinded by celebrity.

Second, Thaddaeus was in the presence of Jesus. No one could be an apostle without having been with Him "*all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us*" (Acts 1:21). No one can lead others to Jesus without first living in His presence.

Third, this man fulfilled his simple mission. Tradition tells us he went to modern-day Ukraine to teach the gospel. He may not have [received](#) all the fanfare of other apostles, but his eternal reward would be just the same.