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THE GOSPELS

THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS





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Mark was the first one to record that
Jesus selected twelve disciples.

Mark 1:16-20



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Disciples assisted Jesus throughout His ministry, like the miraculous feeding of the 4,000 in Matthew 15.



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Their most important function was to serve as witnesses to the miracles that proved Jesus was the Son of God.



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Disciple Defined:

(Webster) “One who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another: such as a Christianity”



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Disciple Defined:

(Greek) “*a learner; pupil/student*”



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The word “disciple” is used over 250 times in the New Testament.

Matthew 10:2-4

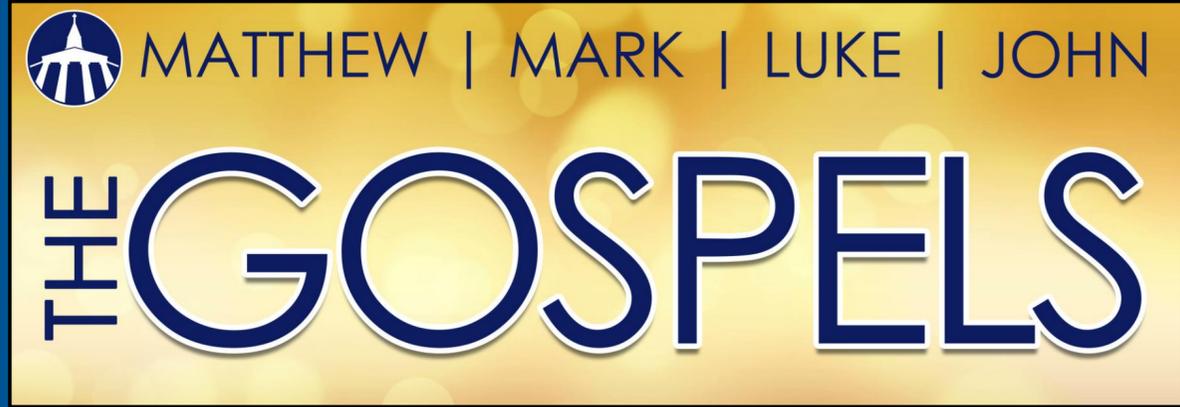
(Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16)

“1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. 2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called **Peter**, and **Andrew** his brother; **James** the son of Zebedee, and **John** his brother; 3 **Philip**, and **Bartholomew**; **Thomas**, and **Matthew** the publican; **James** the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus (**Jude**); 4 **Simon** the Canaanite, and **Judas** Iscariot, who also betrayed him.”



James (the elder)

- Brother of John, the Apostle
- His name never appears apart from his brother, John
 - He was a fisherman
- His preaching ministry was focused in Jerusalem & Judea
- He was beheaded by Herod Antipas in 44 A.D. (Acts 12:2)
- James (the elder) was the first of the 12 to become a martyr.



James (the lesser)

- Brother of the apostle Jude
- His title may refer to his age or small stature
- He was a man of strong character and known for his fiery preaching.
- According to tradition, he preached in Egypt and was crucified there.
- Tradition states that after his crucifixion, his body was sawed into pieces.



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John

- Known as the “beloved disciple”
Brother of James (the elder)
 - He was a fisherman
- He wrote I, II, III John and Revelation
 - Not John the Baptist
- He preached throughout Asia Minor and was banished to the Isle of Patmos, where he wrote Revelation.



Jude

- Brother of James (the lesser)
- Often known as the man with 3 names (Thaddeus in Mark & Lebbaeus in Matthew)
 - Also known as Judas the Zealot
 - Wrote the book of Jude; preached in area of Persia
- Tradition teaches that he was killed by arrows in Ararat, modern day Turkey.

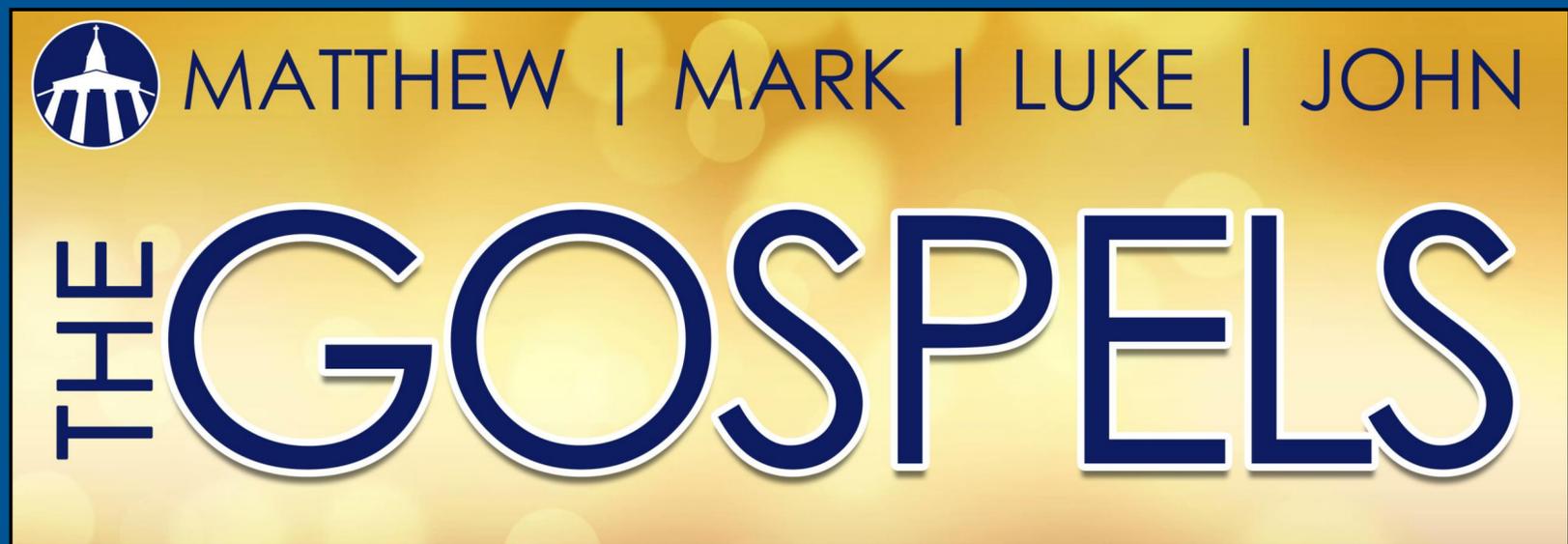


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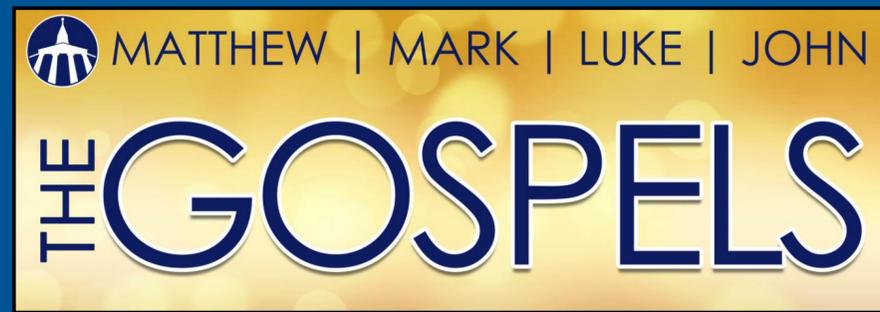
Judas Iscariot

- Betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver
 - After betrayal, hanged himself
 - The only disciple not from Galilee
- One of most mysterious figures in the Bible. How could a man so close to Jesus betray Him into the hands of the enemy?



Peter

- Fisherman with his brother Andrew
 - Writer of epistles I & II Peter
- Likely responsible for the information in Mark's Gospel
 - Mark is often referred to as "Peter's Gospel"
- In every apostolic list, Peter's name is mentioned first.
 - His Greek name was Simon
 - Martyred on an upside down cross



Philip

- Fisherman from Bethsaida, same town as Peter and Andrew
- As soon as called by Jesus, he went to tell Nathanael that “we have found Him of home Moses in the law, and also the prophets wrote - Jesus of Nazareth”
 - Known for his simple, obedient faith in Christ
 - Tradition records that he died from hanging
- While dying, he requested that his body be wrapped in papyrus and not linen because he wasn't worth to be wrapped the same as Jesus.



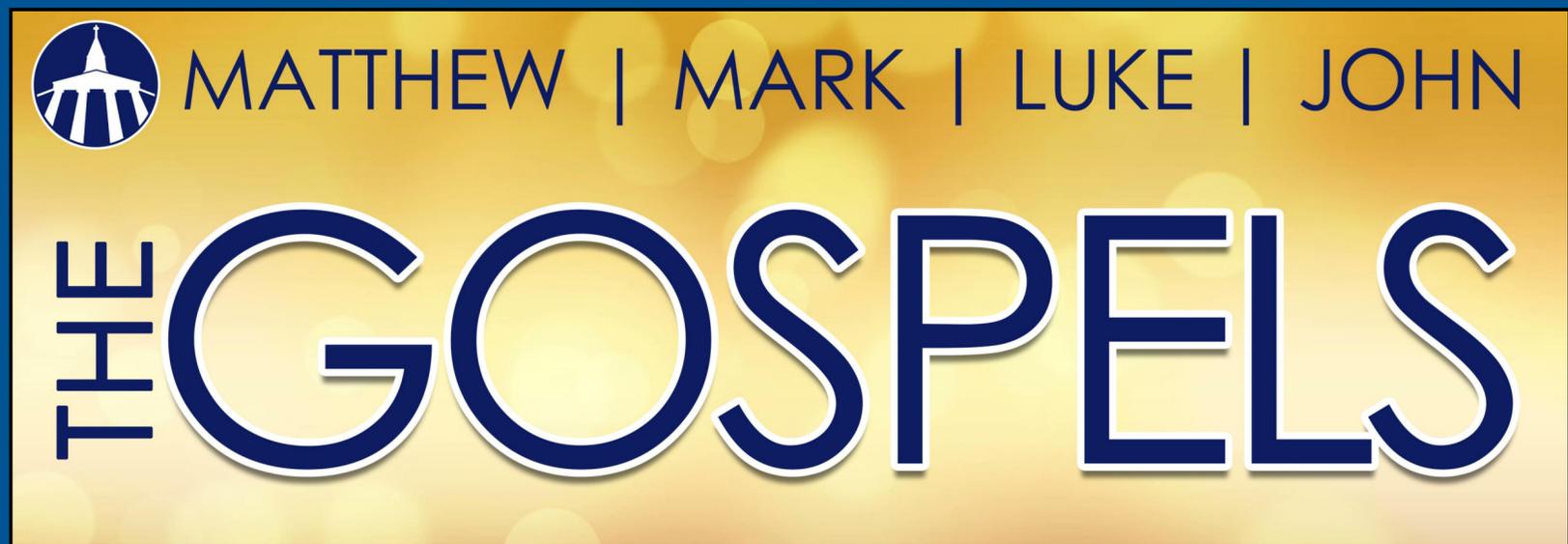
Matthew

- Also known as Levi
- Wrote the gospel of Matthew
- He was a tax collector (hated by the Jews)
- Tax collectors were classified with harlots, gentiles, and sinners (Matthew 18:17; Mark 2:15-16; Luke 5:30)



Andrew

- The brother of Peter; both were fishermen
- Lived in Capernaum (later headquarters of Jesus)
 - Originally a disciple of John the Baptist
 - Andrew brought Peter to Jesus (John 1:40)
- Claimed by 3 countries as their patron saint: Russia, Scotland and Greece
 - Was crucified on an x shaped cross (St. Andrews Cross)



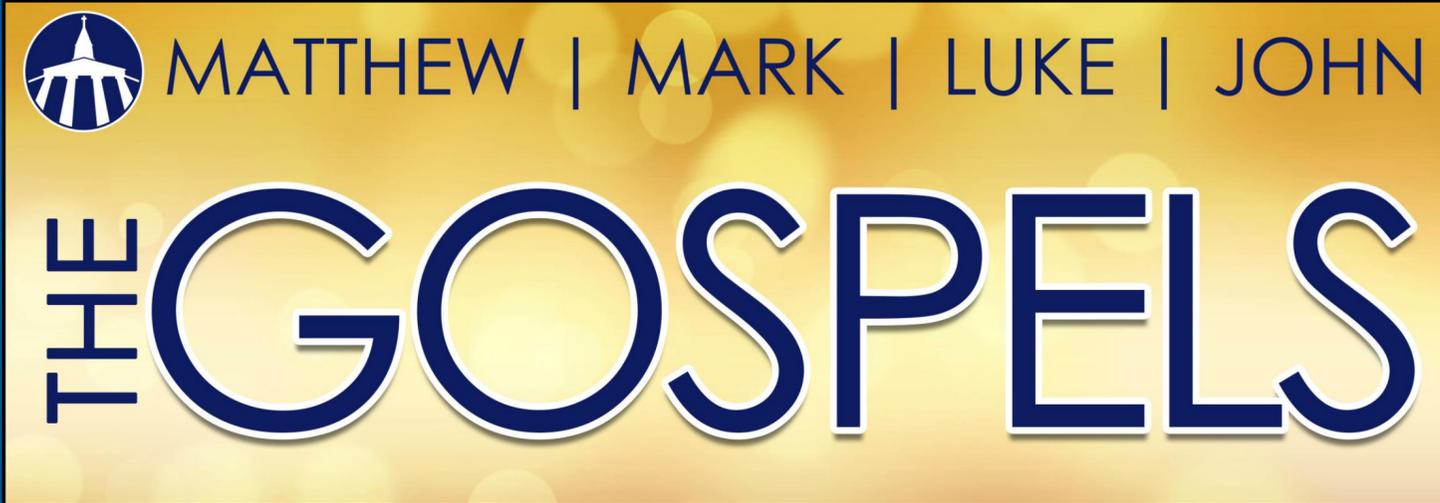
Bartholomew

- Lived in Cana of Galilee
- Name appears in every list of disciples
- Nathaniel was probably his first name
- The NT gives very little information about him but tradition states that he preached in India.
 - Was martyred there by flaying (skinning) alive



Simon

- Known as Simon the Zealot
- Zealots were fanatical Jewish Nationalists who fought to protect the purity of their faith.
- Zealots hated the Romans and all that the Roman government represented
 - Tradition states that he was crucified



Thomas

- Lived in Galilee

Preached in Persia and India

- Martyred in India

- His second name is Didymus and means twin. Similar to our word “ditto”.
- He is most remembered as “doubting Thomas” because he was unwilling to believe Jesus had been raised.



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52 Mab St.

5 J's: James, James, John Jude, Judas

2 P's: Peter & Philip

M: Matthew

A: Andrew

B: Bartholomew

S: Simon

T: Thomas



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Replacing Judas

Acts 1:21-26

Replacement must have:

- Traveled with Jesus since His baptism
- Been an eyewitness to His miracles
- Witnessed His resurrection



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Encouragement to be a Disciple!

- We have witnessed His resurrection!
- Let's be a learner, a student of Jesus!