

# Quick Summary of the Twelve Apostles

Jesus Christ selected twelve men from among his early followers to become his closest disciples. They had no extraordinary skills.

Neither religious, nor refined, they were ordinary people, just like you and me.

They would have been considered common men in their day.

**We find the names of the twelve apostles in:**  
**Matthew 10:2-4      Mark 3:14-19      Luke 6:13-16:**

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

## **The replacement for Judas Iscariot (ACTS 1:26)**

And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias;  
and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

These men became the pioneering leaders of the New Testament church, but they were not without faults and shortcomings. Interestingly, not one of the chosen twelve disciples was a scholar or rabbi.

Jesus taught his apostles about the kingdom of heaven, and in return he learned much from them about the kingdom of men.

These twelve men represented many different types of human temperament.

In a religious sense, they were laymen, unlearned in the lore of the rabbis and untrained in the methods of rabbinical interpretation of the Scriptures.

God chose them for a purpose—to fan the flames of the gospel that would spread across the face of the earth and continue to burn bright throughout the centuries to follow.

He selected and used each of these regular guys to carry out his exceptional plan. Their love and loyalty to Jesus made them uncommon heroes.

After an intensive discipleship course and following his resurrection from the dead, the Lord fully commissioned the apostles (Matthew 28:16-2, Mark 16:15) to advance God's kingdom and carry the gospel message to the world.

Take a few moments now to learn a lesson or two from the twelve apostles—men who helped ignite the light of truth that still dwells within our hearts today and calls us to come and follow Jesus Christ.

Below is a brief summary of each apostle.

## ***Did you know?***

**Andrew** (brother of Simon Peter) and the first chosen apostle, was active in bringing people to Jesus and director general of the twelve.

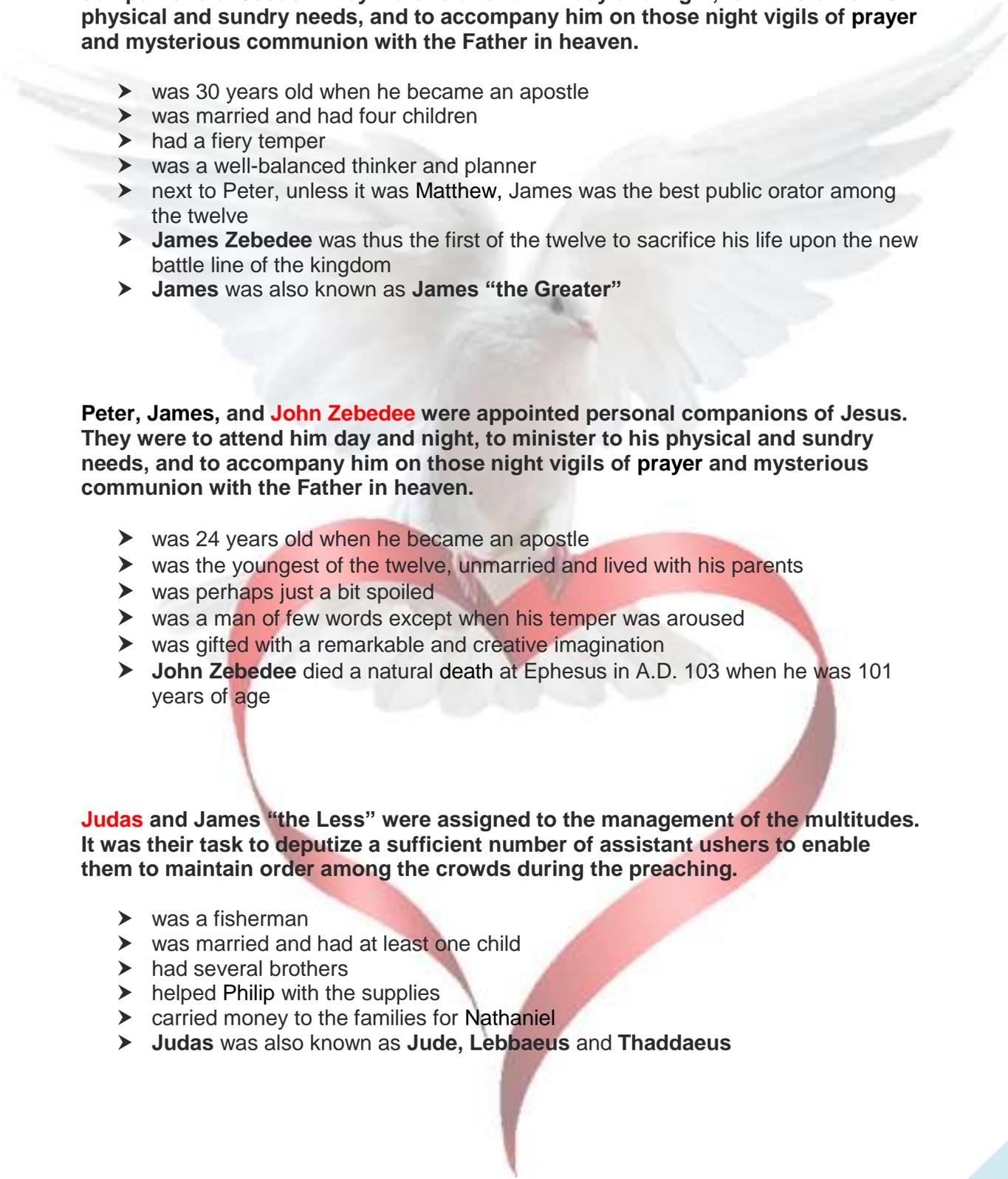
- was chairman of the apostolic corps of the kingdom
- was 33, a full year older than Jesus and the oldest of the apostles
- was a good organizer but a better administrator
- was the best judge of men
- **Andrew** expired on the cross

**Bartholomew** watched over the needs of the families of the twelve. He received regular reports as to the requirements of each apostle's family, and making requisition on Judas, the treasurer, would send funds each week to those in need.

- was the sixth and last of the apostles to be chosen by the Master himself, was brought to Jesus by his friend Philip
- was 25 years old and was the next to the youngest of the group
- was the youngest of a family of seven, unmarried and the only support of aged and infirm parents
- was the apostolic philosopher and dreamer, but he was a very practical sort of dreamer
- Bartholomew (Nathaniel) was one of the best educated men among the twelve;
- **Bartholomew** was also known as **Nathaniel**

**James “the Less”** and Judas were assigned to the management of the multitudes. It was their task to deputize a sufficient number of assistant ushers to enable them to maintain order among the crowds during the preaching.

- was a fisherman
- was 26 years old, married and had three children
- was thought to be the cousin of Jesus
- helped Philip with the supplies
- carried money to the families for Nathaniel
- **James** was also known as **James the Lesser**



**Peter, James Zebedee** (older brother of John) and **John** were appointed personal companions of Jesus. They were to attend him day and night, to minister to his physical and sundry needs, and to accompany him on those night vigils of prayer and mysterious communion with the Father in heaven.

- was 30 years old when he became an apostle
- was married and had four children
- had a fiery temper
- was a well-balanced thinker and planner
- next to Peter, unless it was Matthew, James was the best public orator among the twelve
- **James Zebedee** was thus the first of the twelve to sacrifice his life upon the new battle line of the kingdom
- **James** was also known as **James “the Greater”**

**Peter, James, and John Zebedee** were appointed personal companions of Jesus. They were to attend him day and night, to minister to his physical and sundry needs, and to accompany him on those night vigils of prayer and mysterious communion with the Father in heaven.

- was 24 years old when he became an apostle
- was the youngest of the twelve, unmarried and lived with his parents
- was perhaps just a bit spoiled
- was a man of few words except when his temper was aroused
- was gifted with a remarkable and creative imagination
- **John Zebedee** died a natural death at Ephesus in A.D. 103 when he was 101 years of age

**Judas** and James “the Less” were assigned to the management of the multitudes. It was their task to deputize a sufficient number of assistant ushers to enable them to maintain order among the crowds during the preaching.

- was a fisherman
- was married and had at least one child
- had several brothers
- helped Philip with the supplies
- carried money to the families for Nathaniel
- **Judas** was also known as **Jude, Lebbaeus** and **Thaddaeus**

**Judas Iscariot** was appointed treasurer. He carried the bag. He paid all expenses and kept the books. He made budget estimates for Matthew from week to week and also made weekly reports to Andrew. Judas paid out funds on Andrew's authorization.

- was an only son of wealthy and unwise Jewish parents living in Jericho
- was 30 years of age and unmarried when he joined the apostles
- when very young, he was pampered and petted; he was a spoiled child
- was looking for employment in these regions when Jesus' apostles found him
- was the only Judean among the twelve apostles
- was a good business man
- was a great executive, a farseeing and able financier and a stickler for organization
- was a poor loser
- **Judas Iscariot** was one of the best educated men among the twelve

**Matthew (Levi)** was the fiscal agent of the apostolic corps. It was his duty to see that the budget was balanced, the treasury replenished. If the funds for mutual support were not forthcoming, if donations sufficient to maintain the party were not received, Matthew was empowered to order the twelve back to their nets for a season. But this was never necessary after they began their public work; he always had sufficient funds in the treasurer's hands to finance their activities.

- was the seventh apostle and was chosen by Andrew
- was 31 years old, married and had four children
- was a good business man and a good social mixer
- was gifted with the ability to make friends and to get along smoothly with a great variety of people
- gave practically the whole of his modest fortune to the work of the Master and his apostles, but they never knew of this generosity
- The apostles all died without knowing that **Matthew** was their benefactor

**Philip** was made steward of the group. It was his duty to provide food and to see that visitors and even the multitude of listeners at times, had something to eat.

- was the fifth apostle to be chosen
- was 27 years of age when he joined the apostles
- had recently been married, but he had no children at this time
- came from a family of seven, three boys and four girls
- was not necessarily dull, but he lacked imagination
- was not a man who could be expected to do big things, but he was a man who could do little things in a big way and do them well and acceptably
- **Philip** was not a good public speaker, but he was a very persuasive and successful personal worker

**Simon Peter** (brother of Andrew), **James**, and **John** were appointed personal companions of Jesus. They were to attend him day and night, to minister to his physical and sundry needs, and to accompany him on those night vigils of prayer and mysterious communion with the Father in heaven.

- the Master had known Simon for some time before Andrew presented him as the second of the apostles
- was 30 years of age when he joined the apostles
- was married and had three children
- was well known to all his friends as an erratic and impulsive fellow
- was constantly getting into difficulties because he persisted in speaking without thinking
- asked many questions, more than all the apostles put together; the majority of these questions were good and relevant, many were thoughtless and foolish
- **Simon Peter** was the outstanding preacher of the twelve; he did more than any other one man, aside from Paul, to establish the kingdom and send its messengers to the four corners of the earth in one generation

**Simon Zelotes** (the Zealot) was given charge of recreation and play. He managed the Wednesday programs and also sought to provide for a few hours of relaxation and diversion each day.

- was the eleventh apostle and was chosen by Simon-Peter
- was 28 years old when he became attached to the apostles
- was a fiery agitator; and also a man who spoke much without thinking
- was a very efficient organizer
- **Simon Zelotes** was a great debater and he did like to argue

**Thomas** (Didymus) was manager of the itinerary. It devolved upon him to arrange lodgings and in a general way select places for teaching and preaching, thereby insuring a smooth and expeditious travel schedule.

- was the eighth apostle and was chosen by Philip
- was 29 years old when he joined the apostles
- was married and had four children
- was formerly a carpenter and stone mason, but latterly he had become a fisherman
- had little education, but he possessed a keen, reasoning mind and was the son of excellent parents;
- grew up having a very disagreeable and quarrelsome disposition
- his wife was glad to see him join the apostles; she was relieved by the thought that her pessimistic husband would be away from home most of the time
- was a good executive, an excellent businessman, but he was handicapped by his many moods
- If Jesus and his work had not been genuine, it could not have held a man like **Thomas** from the start to the finish. He had a keen and sure sense of fact

The above apostle information (except for James “the Less” and Judas Thaddaeus) was cited from the following sources:

<http://truthbook.com/jesus/the-twelve-apostles>  
<http://christianity.about.com/od/peopleofthebible/tp/12-Apostles.htm>

Truthbook.com denoted James “the Less” and Judas Thaddaeus as being twins.

(Acts 1:13) clearly denotes Judas as the brother of James, therefore, independent online researches (other than truthbook.com) was performed on these two apostles.

**WAIVER of TRUTH:**

All information comprised in this document (including the individual apostle documents) are not to be considered as being 100% accurate; however; all research work was performed with due diligence to be as accurate as possible.

[Go to page one](#)