

Famous People in the Apostolic Age

The 12 Disciples - The Inner Three

Peter

John



James
(the
elder)

The 12 Disciples - The Inner Three Cont'd

Why are they important?

- ▶ Only disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration [Matt. 17:1]
- ▶ Only disciples that Jesus requested to pray and watch with Him in Gethsemane [Matt. 26:37]
- ▶ Each one was known for a special blessing:
 - ▶ **Peter** → During His Ascension into heaven, Jesus handed over the leadership of the young flock to him [John 21:15-17]
 - ▶ **John** → Jesus left his mother in the care of John [John 19:26-27]
 - ▶ **James (the elder)** → Was the first Apostle to be martyred [Acts 12:2]

The 12 Disciples - The Other Nine

John



Peter

Andrew

Simon

James

(son of Alphaeus)

Judas

Bartholomew

James

(the elder)

Matthew

Thomas

Matthias

Philip

The 12 Disciples - The Other Nine Cont'd

Why are they important?

- ▶ Disciple = student
- ▶ Jesus chose them at the beginning of his 3 year ministry
- ▶ They walked with Jesus every step of the way
- ▶ They ate the Last Supper together
- ▶ They received the Holy Spirit on the Feast of Pentecost
- ▶ Why 12? → symbolic of the 12 tribes of Israel

The 12 Disciples - The Other Nine Cont'd

Special characteristic to remember of each one:

- ▶ **Andrew** → Peter's brother who used to follow John the Baptist
- ▶ **Philip** → Studied the law and the prophecies and martyred on a cross
- ▶ **Bartholomew (Nathaniel)** → Preached in Armenia where he is the intercessor
- ▶ **Matthew** → Tax collector who wrote the Holy Gospel according to Matthew written to the Hebrews

The 12 Disciples - The Other Nine Cont'd

- ▶ **James (son of Alphaeus)** → St. James the Just: He is James the son of Alphaeus. He was known as the Lord's brother as his mother was a sister to St. Mary the Virgin,. He was known also St. James the Young (Mark 15:40), the Just for his holiness and Bishop of Jerusalem. He headed the Council of Jerusalem in 50 AD (Acts 15). He wrote his Holy Epistle
- ▶ **Thomas** → He was martyred in India where he is the intercessor
- ▶ **Judas (Thaddeus)** → Not Iscariot; Wrote the Holy Epistle of Jude
- ▶ **Simon (the zealot)** → From Canaan; Preached in Syria, Iraq and Persia where he was martyred
- ▶ **Matthias** → Was chosen in the place of Judas Iscariot

The 70 Apostles

The 12
Disciples

Inner
3



Mark

Silas

The 70 Apostles

Timoth
y

Titus
Luke

The 70 Apostles Cont'd

Why are they important?

- ▶ Apostle = messenger or representative
- ▶ Jesus appointed them later on in his ministry (Luke 10) and sent them 2 by 2 to preach around the world
- ▶ Received the Holy Spirit on the Feast of Pentecost
- ▶ 70 or 72? → Debatable
 - ▶ Fathers (and tasbeha) say 72
- ▶ Many were called Apostles (including St. Paul and the 12 Disciples) but they were not a part of the specific 70

The 70 Apostles Cont'd

Special characteristic to remember of some important ones:

► **Mark:**

- Wrote the Holy Gospel according to Mark
- Many events happened in his house (Pentacost, Last Supper, etc)
- Preached in Alexandria where he established the Coptic Church
- First Pope of the Coptic Church
- Founded the School of Alexandria
- He was the first Christian martyr in Egypt

The 70 Apostles Cont'd

▶ Luke:

- ▶ Wrote the Holy Gospel according to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles
- ▶ He took accounts from first hand witnesses of Christ's ministry (i.e. St. Mary)
- ▶ One of the disciples in Emmaus
- ▶ Painted the first portrait of St. Mary
- ▶ Was martyred in Greece

Apostles Cont'd

Why are they important?

- ▶ They helped the apostles in their ministry and either became priests, deacons and/or bishops
- ▶ They were to take care of church after left to preach elsewhere
- ▶ Include the 7 deacons: **Stephen** → the 1st martyr (Protonate)
- ▶ Those which accompanied Paul:
 - ▶ **Timothy** → followed st Paul in prison; Bishop of Ephesus
 - ▶ **Titus** → Greek; followed Paul to prison; died at an old age
 - ▶ **Silas** → Roman; was a prophet; followed Paul to prison;

Other Apostles Cont'd

Why are they important?

- ▶ Apostle = messenger or representative
- ▶ Other people that were great advocates of Christ in the First Century
 - ▶ But they weren't a part of the 70 that Jesus appointed in his ministry
- ▶ For example: **St. Paul the Apostle**

Apostles Assistants - Female Servants Cont'd

Why are they important?

- ▶ They helped the apostles in their ministry
- ▶ They were to take care of church after the Apostles left to preach elsewhere
- ▶ Show that females had an important role in the Church
- ▶ Include:
 - ▶ **Phoebe** → Virgin; was the writer for Paul's epistle to the Romans; she delivered it to them; also known as a deaconess
 - ▶ **Priscilla** → Wife of Aquila; exemplary Christian marriage; house became a church
 - ▶ **Thekla** → Rich, Virgin; followed Paul and preached to women; tortured but saved and died at an old age