

JAMES (SON OF ALPHEAUS)

DISCIPLE OF JESUS



BIBLICAL FACTS

- He was the son of a man named Alphaeus
- He's only mentioned by name four times throughout all four Gospel accounts
 - Each one of those times, his name is simply placed in a list identifying the names of all 12 of Jesus' disciples (Mark 3:14-19; Matthew 10:2-4; Luke 6:13-16; Acts 1:13-16)
- Can sometimes be confused with other people named "James" in the Bible, such as James the brother of Jesus or James the son of Zebedee

THEORIES

- There are many theories surrounding James the son of Alphaeus
 - Many of these cannot be proven by scripture or historical sources
- Many scholars conclude that James the son of Alphaeus was also known as "James the Lesser"
 - He may have been given this nickname as a way to distinguish him from the other disciple named James (the son of Zebedee)
- Some have suggested that James the son of Alphaeus is related to Matthew, Jude, or Jesus
 - There is not enough supporting evidence to confirm these claims

LESSONS FROM HIS LIFE

- God can use any of us to do whatever needs to be done for His glory and purpose
- What the outside world can see or understand about what we do for Christ is irrelevant in terms of the impact each of us can make for Him

HIS SIGNIFICANCE AS A DISCIPLE & APOSTLE

- Was present when Jesus fed the 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21)
- Witnessed Jesus raising Lazarus back to life (John 11:5-16, 38-44)
- He watched as the Jews called Jesus their king as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey (Luke 19: 28-38)
- He sat at the table during the Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-30)
- Felt immeasurable confusion, pain, and loss when he heard of Jesus' death on the cross (John 20:19)
- After Jesus had risen from the grave, James' hope was renewed as he watched Jesus ascend into Heaven (John 20: 19-20; Matthew 28:16-20)
- We can surmise that he, along with the other apostles, all experienced the miracle of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)
- He and the other disciples were responsible for choosing a new disciple, Matthias, to replace Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:12-26)
- Likely became a missionary
 - Church traditions suggest that he might have gone to Egypt or Jerusalem, but we don't know for certain
- It is believed that he, like many of the disciples was martyred for their work in telling the world about Jesus (Acts 12:1-2)
 - Some church traditions suggest that he was stoned by the Jews. Others say he was beaten with a club or crucified.