

“JESUS APPOINTED TWELVE” (5)
Acts 1:12-14

Introduction:

- 1. We would like to know more about the apostles than the Bible tells us:
 - a. Who was Thomas’ twin?**
 - b. How many of the apostles were married and had children?**
 - c. Why did Jesus choose Judas Iscariot?****
- 2. The Holy Spirit never caters to our human curiosity, but reveals to us only what we need to know for our salvation.**
- 3. The apostles shared the trials, temptations, tragedies and triumphs common to all human beings.**
- 4. In the lives of the apostles, we have a “mirror of humanity” - twelve ordinary men who were made extraordinary by their association with Jesus.**
- 5. Jesus did not seek His apostles from the powerful, wealthy, or highly educated classes.**
- 6. Neither did He choose them from the rabbis, elders, priests and scribes.**
- 7. He chose men who had the power to become the workers He needed to evangelize the world.**

Discussion:

- I. MATTHEW WAS A TAX COLLECTOR.
 - A. Tax collectors were universally hated by the Jews.
 - 1. They were outcasts from society (Luke 15:1,2).******

2. They collected taxes from the Jews for the Romans who oppressed the Jews.
 3. They often took advantage of their position to extort money from the common people (Luke 19:8).
- B. As a tax collector, Matthew must had a good education.**
1. He was a man of some wealth for he owned a home where he gave a great feast for Jesus (Luke 5:27-29).
 2. Jesus did not discriminate against the poor nor did He discriminate against the wealthy.

II. WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT MATTHEW'S PERSONAL LIFE.

- A. He was a Galilean who lived in Capernaum (Mark 2:1;14).**
1. He was the son of Alphaeus (Mark 2:14).
 2. Some think he and James, son of Alphaeus, were brothers (Mark 3:18).
 3. He was also known as Levi (Mark 2:14,15).
- B. Matthew was sitting at the table of toll when Jesus called him (Matthew 9:9; Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27,28).**
1. "So he left all, rose up, and followed Him" (Lk. 5:28).
 2. He may have been among the tax collectors and sinners who eagerly followed the Lord (Luke 15:1,2).
 3. The apostles gave up all to follow Christ (Matt. 19:27).

III. MATTHEW IS THE MOST WIDELY READ BOOK IN THE WORLD.

- A. The Bible has always been the world's best seller.**
1. When people read the Bible, they begin with the NT.
 2. The first book of the NT they read is Matthew.
- B. Matthew was written with the Jews in mind.**

1. It is the “most Jewish” of the Gospels.
2. Jesus’ genealogy is designed to show He is the Seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:3; 22:18; Galatians 3:16).
3. It also shows He is the son of David (2 Sam. 7:12,13).
4. Matthew quotes from the Old Testament to show Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Christ.
5. Renan, a French skeptic, said “Matthew wrote the most important book ever written.”

C. After preaching in Parthia and Arabia, Matthew preached in Ethiopia where he was martyred for the Cause of Christ.

IV. THOMAS IS ONE OF THE LESS KNOWN APOSTLES.

A. The Bible tells us little about Thomas’ personal life.

1. He was among the twelve disciples Jesus called to be apostles (Matthew 10; Mark 3; Luke 6; Acts 1).
2. His name means “a twin,” but we do not know who his twin sibling was (John 11:16; 20:24; 21:2).

B. Thomas is often thought of as being negative, a pessimist.

1. Jesus was beyond the Jordan when Lazarus died.
2. He had gone there after the Jews had tried to seize Him in Jerusalem (John 10:39 - 42).
3. When Jesus received word Lazarus had died, He said: “Let us go to Judea again” (John 11:7).
4. His apostles tried to persuade Him of the danger.
5. Thomas said: “Let us also go, that we may die with Him” (John 11:16).
6. Some think Thomas was saying, “We might as well just go and die with Him.”
7. But Thomas was loyal to Jesus and willing to go with Him even if it meant death.
8. At the Last Supper, Jesus told His apostles He would be going away, but they knew the place and the way.

9. Thomas said: “We do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” (John 14:1-5).
10. Thomas’ mind was so clouded with grief that Jesus was leaving them that he did not comprehend.
11. Jesus then stated plainly: “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life!” (John 14:1-6).

C. Thomas is wrongly nicknamed “Doubting Thomas.”

1. Jesus appeared to the apostles on the evening of Resurrection day (John 20:19-29).
2. Thomas was not present, but we are not told why.
3. Jesus showed them His hands and feet to convince them He really had risen from the dead.
4. The apostles told Thomas, “We have seen the Lord,” but he said:

“Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe!”

5. The following Lord’s Day, Jesus appeared again to the apostles, and this time Thomas was present.
6. Jesus showed His omniscience when He said:

“Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

7. Thomas confessed: “My Lord and My God!”
8. Others doubted on other occasions (Matthew 28:17).
9. Because Thomas demanded proof, his testimony of of the resurrection of Christ is even stronger!

Conclusion:

1. Thomas carried the Gospel to Persia and India.
2. He was killed by a lance while kneeling in prayer near Bombay.

