

## Luke 6: Twelve Common Men, Part 4

- ✚ **Luke 6:12-16**, We've taken a good bit of time to consider these apostles. We don't want to just run over them quickly because these are some of the greatest people who have **ever lived**.
  - ✚ **They are the 12 official representatives of our Lord and Savior operating in the capacity of Powers of Attorney for Jesus.**
  - ✚ **In the Millennial Kingdom, they will reign over the twelve tribes of Israel who will, in turn, rule over the world.**
  - ✚ Their names will be on the foundation stones of the New Jerusalem which will stand for all eternity.
  - ✚ Again, our main lesson to get from these guys is that the Lord uses all kinds of weak and common people if they will surrender themselves to Him.
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### 1. The Apostle Thomas

- ✓ When you think of Thomas, what do you think of? Doubting. Thomas wasn't so much a doubter as he was a negative person and possibly a depressive person.
  - ✓ If anyone was a doubter, it was Philip; Thomas holds down the corner on negativity though.
  - ✓ But there's more to him than just that; he's called Didymus which means "the twin."
  - ✓ His character is demonstrated to us best in the book of John:11 and the story of the raising of Lazarus.
  - ✓ **John 11:15** "They're going to kill Him, and we should die right alongside Him." Pessimistic and dark but very heroic, very brave.
  - ✓ It's easier for an optimist to be loyal, much harder for someone who always expects the worse.
  - ✓ When we think about one of the apostles who loved Jesus, we think of John, but his devotion may be equaled if not surpassed by Thomas.
  - ✓ Thomas didn't want to live without Jesus. This is underscored by the passage Thomas is most famous for in **John 20:24**.
  - ✓ His whole world had ended; he just couldn't allow himself to get his hopes up, **John 20:25**.
  - ✓ **John 20:27-28**, The greatest statement to ever come from the lips of any of the apostles.
  - ✓ Tradition tells us that Thomas was martyred while spreading the gospel as far as India. Today there is in India the Bar Toma Church, "sons of Thomas", that traces its origin to him.
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### 2. We have three remaining not including Judas Iscariot.

- ✓ What's Phillip like? He's already been counting noses.
  - ✓ James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. These guys are tough to know much about since there is nothing about them in the Bible other than their names.
  - ✓ James the son of Alphaeus; we don't know anything about Alphaeus except maybe **Mark 2:14**. Could he have been Matthew's brother?
  - ✓ He is also called James the Less in **Mark 15:40**; might mean that he was physically small or that he was young, or both.
  - ✓ His distinguishing mark is obscurity; so "little James" wasn't a superstar in the physical sense, but haven't you noticed that the Lord never depended on that.
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- ✓ Simon the Zealot was just that, a zealot, a political activist party of the day and very similar to Antifa. They were known for extreme violence, killing people, and burning stuff down.
  - ✓ They were revolutionaries who effectively took a death pact to see Rome removed from their land.
  - ✓ How can such a radical be one whose name will forever be on the foundation of the eternal city?
  - ✓ Our final one for today, Judas the son of James; Judas means "Jehovah Leads."
  - ✓ **John 14:22** He is also called Thaddeus which basically means "Momma's boy", a nickname.
  - ✓ So, you have a zealot and sweet-spirited Momma's boy on the same team.
  - ✓ It is as if Jesus went out of His way to demonstrate that anyone could have qualified as long as there was complete surrender.
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### 3. We don't know much else, but don't let these guys' obscurity cloud your respect for them.

- ✓ It is enough for us to know that they were chosen by the Lord, empowered by the Spirit, and carried the gospel to the world of their day.
  - ✓ The vessel is not the issue; the One who grasps it, is.
  - ✓ These guys were sold out to Him as Lord, that's it.
  - ✓ If you are following Jesus for the wrong reasons, you aren't actually following Jesus, but your idea of what you want Him to be.
  - ✓ **John 6:66-67** They weren't committed to Him for what they could get from Him, but because He was the Holy One of God.
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