

## April 14, 2020-Tuesday, First Week of Easter

### Who were the 12 apostles?

Luke names the apostles as Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon the Zealot, and Judas (son of James). Matthias would later join this group to replace Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of Jesus.

John's Gospel refers to 12 apostles but only gives names for nine of them: Peter, Andrew (identified as Peter's brother, the sons of Zebedee (plural form implies at least two apostles), Philip, Nathanael, Thomas (also called Didymus), Judas Iscariot, and Judas (not Iscariot).

Matthew and Mark's list of the 12 apostles agrees with Luke's for the most part. But they substitute Thaddeus for Judas, son of James (the saint normally referred to as St. Jude Thaddeus).

Why do the apostles' names differ on the evangelists' lists? In some cases, it wasn't unusual for a person to be known by two different names. Peter, for example, is also known as Simon. Possibly Judas, the son of James, preferred to be called Thaddeus so that he wouldn't be confused with Judas Iscariot.

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*The angel's appearance was like lightening and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of the angel and became like dead men.* (Mt. 28:3-4)

The cross has become a victory sign.

If God can bring meaning even to the cross, then God can bring meaning to anything. Only God could transform suffering and failure into victory.

This is the joy of Easter.

We all have parts of our lives that seem so useless, so senseless, so meaningless.

Some of my failures I bring on myself. Some of them are not my own doing, I can't control what happens.

Some are small pockets of our life—irritations and frustrations.

Some are major concerns.

Easter celebrates God's ability to bring meaning to any aspect of human life, even something apparently useless, even a total failure.

Easter celebrates the fact that God's capacity for goodness is greater than my capacity for failure.

Now *that's* something to celebrate.

*Spend some quiet time with the Lord.*