



# Three Years That Changed the World

Come Follow Me – Jesus and His Followers (John 1:38-51)

**Part 3 of the series - Three Years That Changed The World**



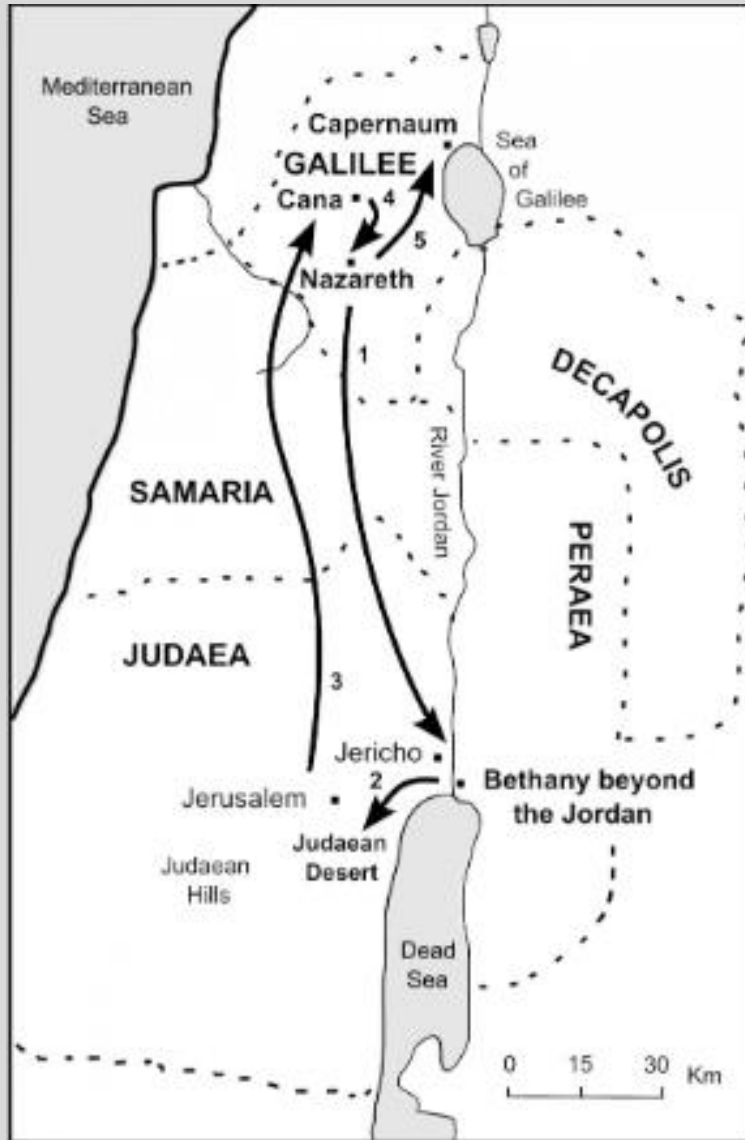
# Come Follow Me

Jesus and His Followers

John 1:38-51

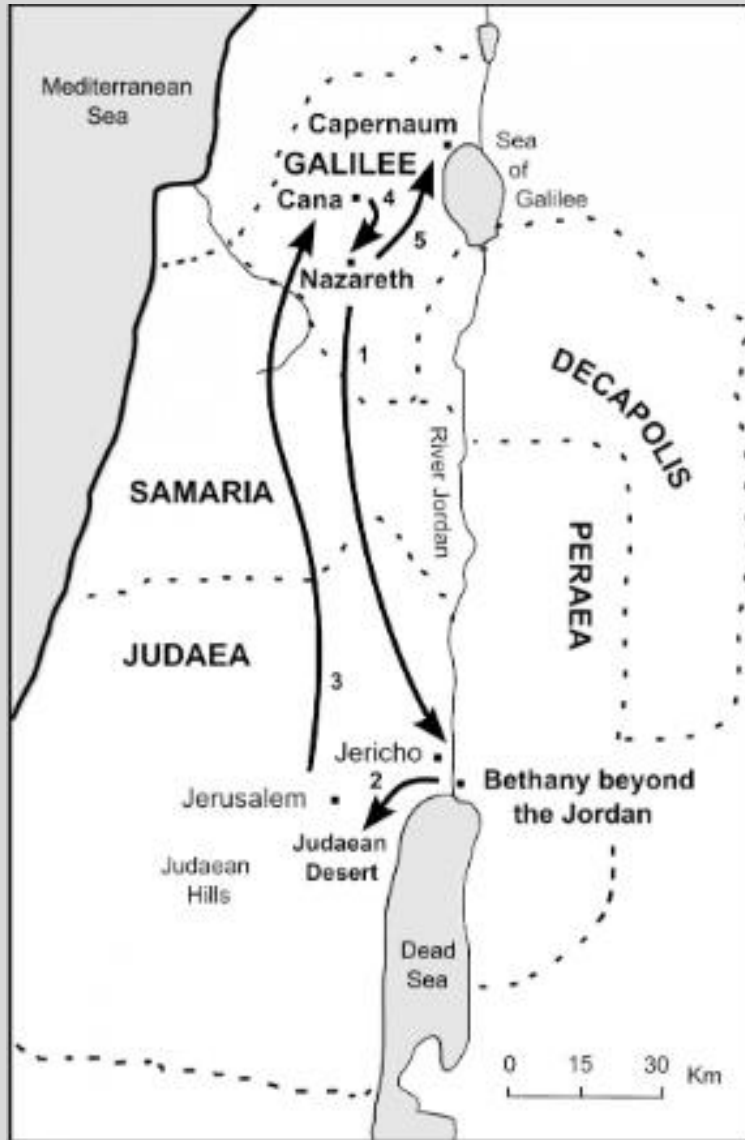
Several things have transpired so far:

- ✓ John the Baptist is questioned by the religious leaders as to who he was and by what authority he baptized
- ✓ Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River (probably the eastern bank near Bethany)
- ✓ Two of John's disciples (John and Andrew) begin following Jesus



***The two disciples heard him speak,  
and they followed Jesus. (John 1:37)***

## A few noteworthy items:



- ✓ It is because of the recognition of Jesus as the Lamb of God and the encouragement by John the Baptist that John (the author of this Gospel) decides to follow Jesus
- ✓ This portion of John's Gospel continues with the initial encounter between John, Andrew, Jesus and other followers.
- ✓ Jesus and his disciples will eventually make their way to Cana of Galilee

*“Then **Jesus** turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).” (John 1:38-39)*

- ✓ Note the change/shift away from John the Baptist **toward Jesus**
- ✓ Although John the Baptist will continue to preach and point the way to Jesus, the emphasis and **focus** of the Gospel writers from this point forward **will be on Jesus** and not John the Baptist.

*“**John answered** and said, A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘**I am not the Christ,**’ but ‘I have been sent before Him.’ He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore, this joy of mine is fulfilled. **He must increase, but I must decrease**” (John 3:27-30)*

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- ✓ John and Andrew had been followers of John the Baptist and as such would have been convicted of their sin and recognized their need of forgiveness - something a righteous Messiah would bring.
- ✓ John would write these words from Jesus later in his Gospel record:

***“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:17-18)***

*“Then **Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).”** (John 1:38-39)*

- ✓ Something worth noting here is that when Jesus asks a question (such like this), he isn't asking as if he doesn't know or asking for his own benefit for **Jesus is God** which would make him “omniscient” (all knowing”)

*“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus who being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God but made himself of no reputation taking on the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:5-8)*

- ✓ Also noteworthy is that he didn't ask “**who**” they were seeking but “**what**” they were seeking? **He was challenging them to consider their motives.**

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- ✓ Andrew and John didn't really answer the question by Jesus directly
- ✓ They do acknowledge Jesus as Rabbi/Teacher
- ✓ They probably don't fully grasp/understand the full measure of who Jesus is, but they know enough to follow him and to adhere/listen to his words
- ✓ Their question as to where he was staying might well be seen as a request to meet with Jesus privately and formally become His disciples



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- ✓ The response by Jesus; “**come and see**” was an “**invitation**” for them to be a part of what he was doing and going to do.
- ✓ Perhaps this was like the invitation Jesus gave to Zacchaeus; *“Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And **he sought to see who Jesus was**, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So, he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” So, he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully” (Luke 19:1-6)*



## The words of Jesus to the church at Laodicea:

“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So **be earnest and repent.**  
Here I am! **I stand at the door and knock.** If anyone hears my voice and **opens the door, I will come in** and eat with that person, and they with me”  
(Revelation 3:19-20)

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- ✓ The 10<sup>th</sup> hour would probably best be translated as 10 am (as per the Roman clock) and as such Andrew and John remained with Jesus throughout the day
- ✓ Andrew and John probably didn't have an interest in finding shelter but were instead interested in finding the Savior!
- ✓ What they probably learned was a deeper understanding of who Jesus was and a deeper understanding of His fulfillment of Scripture – He was indeed Israel's promised Messiah, and this is something they will witness firsthand.

***Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter (John 1:40-42)***

✓ The first "named" disciple who followed Jesus was **Andrew**

**Andrew**, along with John (the writer of the Gospel of John – although he doesn't name himself as the author) were **originally followers of John the Baptist** – *"The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, **"Look, the Lamb of God!"** When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus"* (John 1:35-37)

*“Andrew, **Simon Peter’s brother**, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter (John 1:40-42)*

- ✓ The time that Andrew and John spent with Jesus convinced them they had found the Messiah. They may not have fully grasped the full measure of what that meant at the time, but they were prepared to follow him.
- ✓ Andrew is identified as Simon Peter’s brother and at some point, the next day, he seeks out his brother to inform him they (him and John) had found the Messiah.
- ✓ Although it doesn’t specifically say; many scholars conclude that John also sought out his brother James shortly after and makes the same claim.

*“Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. **The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).** And **he brought him to Jesus**. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter*  
(John 1:40-42)

- ✓ Although their full understanding of who Jesus was would grow over the years they spent with him, the fact that Andrew and John were instantly convinced that Jesus was the Messiah was evidenced by them wanting their family to know as well.
- ✓ **Andrews first action** was to find and tell his brother Simon (full name is Simon Bar Jonah). We don’t know much about Andrew and Simon’s father, but we know their father’s name was John (Jonah)

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✓ The term **Messiah** means “anointed one” and its Greek equivalent is **Christ**

“After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the **Messiah**, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: **The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.**” (Matthew 11:1-6)

*“Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. **Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter)** (John 1:40-42)*

- ✓ Jesus (who knew everything about Peter because He is God) not only saw Simon (the man who was) but Peter (the man he would become).
- ✓ It was no accident that Jesus changed his name to **Cephas**, the Aramaic word for “**rock**” and the Greek equivalent is **Peter** (also defined as “**rock**”)
- ✓ This disciple (who would become a follower of Jesus) is sometimes referred to as Simon, sometimes Peter, and sometimes Simon Peter



The background of the image is a dense crowd of stylized human figures. These figures are rendered in various shades of brown, tan, and gold, giving them a three-dimensional, paper-cut appearance. They are scattered across the frame, some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background, creating a sense of a large gathering. In the center of the image, a single figure stands out, rendered in a bright white color. This central figure has its arms raised in a 'V' shape, a gesture often associated with Jesus in religious art. The overall lighting is soft and warm, with a slight vignette effect that draws the eye toward the center.

# Jesus Seeks Others

## To Follow Him

**“The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee.** Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked, “Come and see,” said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.” (John 1:43-51)

***“The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.” (John 1:43-44)***

- ✓ In the case of John, Andrew, Peter, and James; they were introduced to Jesus by someone else.
- ✓ In the case of **Philip**, Jesus took the initiative to find him (seek him out) and call him to follow.
- ✓ Perhaps this is to show the various ways people come to Jesus but in the end, He knows us all by name (and as we will see with Nathanael) and knows everything about us. This is the God who is – this is the God who saves!
- ✓ **Philip is from Bethsaida** (a fishing village on the northeast shore of the Sea of Galilee and **also the hometown of Andrew and Peter**, although they later moved to Capernaum), which is the direction Jesus was heading.

***“Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” (John 1:44-45)***

- ✓ In the same way that Andrew could not keep the good news about Jesus to himself, Philip sought out his friend Nathanael to share the same news
- ✓ **Nathanael** (his given name which means **God has given** and the name John identifies him as) is called **Bartholomew** (his surname) in the synoptic (see the same) gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke).
- ✓ Nathanael is from Cana of Galilee (as noted in John 21:2)
- ✓ Philip claims to have found the One that Moses and the Prophets spoke of

*“We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—**Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.**” “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked, “**Come and see,**” said Philip.” (John 1:45-46)*

- ✓ The reference to Jesus being the son of Joseph would have been a natural way for Phillip to describe him, for Joseph was the legal father of Jesus, just not his biological father.
- ✓ The reality of the virgin birth was probably something Jesus had not revealed to his disciples at this point or perhaps something they may not have yet fully understood.
- ✓ Nazareth (not the birthplace of Jesus but **the place where he was raised**) would have been looked at as an “insignificant” town and Nathanael was probably surprised he came from there. **Phillip compelled him to come and see for himself.**

***“When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” (John 1:47)***

- ✓ The response by Jesus about him being an “Israelite” with no deceit contrasts with many of the fellow Jews of his day who Jesus often referred to as “hypocrites” and deceivers.
  - *“So, when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full” (Matthew 6:2)*
  - *“You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules” (Matthew 15:7)*
- ✓ Jesus saw the genuine, honest and truthful nature in Nathanael

***“A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person’s praise is not from other people, but from God.” (Romans 2:28-29)***

***“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” (John 1:48-49)***

- ✓ In addition to summing up Nathanael’s character before he met him, Jesus spoke of something that only God would have known about him – the very place where he meditated and studied the Old Testament Scriptures.
- ✓ Jesus saw into the heart of Nathanael:

***“You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.” (Psalm 139:1-4)***

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- ✓ Nathanael recognized Jesus’ omniscience (an attribute only God can display) and responds with an outburst of confident faith!
- ✓ Nathanael is boldly declaring that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah promised in the Old Testament Scriptures – the very One he had been studying about!

***“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*** (John 20:30-31)



***“Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man” (John 1:50-51)***

- ✓ Nathanael believed that Jesus is the promised Messiah, his King, the very Son of God; for only God could have known what Jesus described. There were no video camera's, cell phones, journalists or reporters who would have known this detail about Nathanael in advance of his meeting with Jesus
- ✓ Jesus declared to Nathanael that he would see even greater things than this. John would soon record the first miracle in Cana of Galilee where Jesus would turn water into wine. Though there were other miracles not recorded (John 20:30), the Gospel writers will record over 35 miracles that Jesus will accomplish in his 3 years of ministry.

*“Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” **He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man”** (John 1:50-51)*

*“They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:10-11)*

*“But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” (Acts 7:55-56)*



Although John and James, Andrew, and Simon (aka Peter) became followers of Jesus as described by John (the author of this Gospel) there would be later encounters in which Jesus will call them to leave their occupation (fisherman) and **follow him fully** to become “fishers of men”:

“As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, **Simon called Peter** and his brother **Andrew**. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “**Come, follow me**,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, **James** son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him” (Matthew 4:18-22)



Although John and James, Andrew, and Simon (aka Peter) became followers of Jesus as described by John (the author of this Gospel) there would be later encounters in which Jesus will call them to leave their occupation (fisherman) and **follow him fully** to become “fishers of men”:

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. **Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.** When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, **he fell at Jesus’ knees** and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him” (Luke 5:1-11)





# The other 6 Apostles

- Of the remaining 6 Apostles (though all were called by Jesus); only Matthew is **recorded** to have a “specific” encounter with Jesus where he calls him to follow him.

***“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples.” (Matthew 9:9-10)***

# The Twelve Apostles

The  
remaining 6  
came later

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Andrew                   | 7. Matthew              |
| 2. John                     | 8. James (the less)     |
| 3. Peter (Andrew's brother) | 9. Simon (the zealot)   |
| 4. James (John's brother)   | 10. Thomas              |
| 5. Philip                   | 11. Jude (aka Thaddeus) |
| 6. Bartholomew              | 12. Judas Iscariot      |

“Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. (Matthew 10:1-4)