

# What do Followers do?

## Acts 1: 12-15

True Followers follow for the long haul.

Let's do a little study here...

- Matthew 10 tells us that Jesus called 12 disciples... Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite, Judas Iscariot
- Mark 3 tells us that Jesus called 12 disciples... Peter, Andrew, James and John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot
- Luke 6: 14 tells us that Jesus called 12 disciples... Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, James of Alphaeus, Thomas, Simon of the Zealots, Judas of James, Judas Iscariot
- Acts tells us that when they gathered in the place to wait...Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon of the Zealots, Judas of James

What is the difference in these lists?

What has happened to Thaddaeus? He has become missing. Thaddaeus only was mentioned these two times and then he disappeared. Judas, not Iscariot came to be the replacement. Who is this Judas not Iscariot? Some say that Judas and Thaddaeus was the same person but we have no reason to believe this other than the fact that two gospels referred to the 12 with Thaddaeus and the latter Gospel is the one who never mentions him. He is never mentioned in any other place.

### Could it be that this Judas is a very special Judas?

- Let's look at the family of Jesus: Matthew 13: 55 – Here we see that the family of Jesus' brothers is named – James, Joses, Simon, and Judas. Mark 6: 3 tells the same story.
- Jesus had at these four brothers and at least two sisters.
- Jesus did not favor his family! Matthew 12: 46/ Mark 3: 31/ Luke 8: 19 they came to see him and he did not favor them.
- Jesus brethren did not believe on Him. John 7: 1-5 tells us that.

### But things began to happen:

- Luke 6 and Acts 1 Thaddaeus was missing and Judas was the 12<sup>th</sup> disciple. Is he Jesus' brother by this time? I do not know but it is a possibility.

- John 14: 22 This Judas not Iscariot was with Jesus on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane and asked a very important question. How will you manifest yourself to us and not the world?
- So we see a Judas that is part of the group.
- There was also a distinct declaration of a Judas being of James...
- Luke 6: 16 Judas of James, the writers even said, of his brother James.
- What happened to Thaddaeus? We do not know but we do know that Judas was there in the mix. Luke 6 and Acts 1 and both times he is referred to as of James...
- Matthew 27: 56 We read that at the crucifixion, the Mother of Jesus is called the Mother of James and Joses, and the sons of Zebedee is there also, watching Jesus die.
- Now James and Joses – Both of Jesus brothers are watching Jesus die (Matthew 27: 56)
- Even at the burial in Luke 24: 10, we have Luke refer to Mary, Jesus mother as the Mother of James.
- When Mark gave his account he is definitely declaring that this is James the brother as well as Joses and Salome. Who is she? She is the Mother of James and John, the wife of Zebedee!
- Judas, the brother of Jesus, is very possibly one of the 12 or at least a close follower.
- James is at a distance watching the crucifixion.
- Acts 1: 14 tells us that Judas is there of James marked with the 11 now. But the statement is made that Mary, the mother of Jesus was with the disciples and with his brethren. (Acts 1: 13-14)
- Paul also says that he met James the Lord's brother in Colossians 1: 19
- Also it is important to note that Paul tells us something in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15 – Paul tells us that Jesus meets up with James after he has resurrected.
- Then in Luke 24: 34, Luke records that the Lord appeared to Simon. Could it be that this Simon was the Lord's half-brother? That is why he said it this way, "He is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon."
- What is the brother's names? James, Joses – Both watched Jesus die with their mother, at a distance. Judas very possibly became the replacement for Thaddaeus. And the Simon that Jesus made a special appearance in front of after the resurrection very well could have been his # 3 brother Simon.

**What do we learn with such a study?**

1. We learn that everybody loves the family.
2. We learn that we must serve God and fulfill our purpose in order to see God move in us.  
We are in this for the long haul.
3. We learn that not everyone finishes strong.
4. We learn that true followers run to Jesus even when they do not understand Him.
5. We learn that everyone must believe in Jesus, even His brothers.