

Sermon: "The Apostles Who Shine From a Distance"

Text: Various

These three apostles are not well known to most Christians. But we are confident that Jesus selected them—shaped them—and then sent them out as gospel ambassadors. Who were these three men who shone from a distance?

1. _____ the Less, the _____ man
who labored _____

This James appears only five times in the entire New Testament--- and in every case the only thing Scripture gives us is his name.

Matthew the tax collector was also described as *"...the son of Alphaeus."* So does that mean these two were brothers? Perhaps they were, because the NT doesn't take any steps to differentiate between two Alphaeus'—it simply just gives their names without further explanation.

That word *"less"* in Greek is the word *"mikros"* which is where we get our English word *"micro"*—it literally means *"little or small"*.

Even if your service remains invisible, and your name remains unknown— know for sure that you are making an eternal difference in the kingdom of God.

2. _____ the Zealot, the _____ patriot
who _____ a new _____.

2 Cor. 5:17 NKJV *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*

The day that Simon met Jesus, his life was forever changed! His backstory was transformed into new story for Jesus!

Only Jesus has the power to cleanse your past, and put you on a new path. Only Jesus has the power to change you from the inside out—so that the changes

aren't temporary, but permanent! Take your step of believing faith today. Turn to Jesus!

As believers, our love for country should always be a distant second to our passionate allegiance to Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:20 NKJV *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly await the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."*

3. _____ the son of James, the _____ who
asked a _____.

Lebbaeus and Thaddaeus were probably nicknames given to him based on his mannerisms and personality.

Thaddaeus: related to nursing infant; one devoted to his mother.

Lebbaeus: related to heart-child; tender-heart.

John 14:22 NKJV *"Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, 'Lord, how is it that you will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?'"*

The tender-hearted man received a tender answer: task of the Great Commission is a work meant to change men's hearts on the inside.

The healthy Christian life is a daily walk, a daily relationship, a daily friendship with Jesus that keeps developing and deepening over a lifetime. Are you pursuing this?

"...a long obedience in the same direction." -Eugene Peterson

