

## The 2 Most Obscure Apostles

- James, the son of Alphaeus
  - Possibly a brother of Matthew (Mt. 10:2-4)
  - Nicknamed James the Less, likely because of short stature – Mk. 15:40
  - No quote or specific action of his recorded for us in scripture
- Thaddaeus
  - Thaddaeus – Greek name – “breast child” – Could have been name given to him during discipleship because of his tenderness
    - Aka Judas the son of James (Lk. 6:16) – Jewish name
    - Lebbaeus (Mt. 10:3) – combination Hebrew/Greek name – “heart child” or “courageous one”
  - Jn. 14:22 – “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”
    - Like Thomas & Philip (Jn. 14:5, 8, 22), began question with “Lord”, unlike Judas Iscariot who never addressed Him as Lord (Mt. 26:25)
    - Eager to learn
    - Wanted to understand, but didn’t ask the best question. How Jesus manifests Himself isn’t what man NEEDS to know.
    - This is a curiosity question that doesn’t contribute to building one’s faith. See also Jn. 21:20-22
    - Jn. 14:23-24 – Jesus’ answer reflects what Thaddaeus NEEDED to know – Love is secret of obedience
- Seemingly content with being obscure background characters
  - Although lack of detail included in scripture doesn’t mean they did nothing—just that scriptural narrative was elsewhere
  - Mt. 25:14-30 – Parable of Talents – Regardless of how many talents they had, they would have put them all to use
  - Lk. 22:24 – disciples arguing about which of them would be the greatest (followed by Jesus washing their feet in Jn. 13)... How much would they have disputed in this conversation?
  - Rev. 21:14 – Their names included on foundation of walls of New Jerusalem
- Application
  - Can we render obscure, unnoticed, nonglamorous service today?
    - Even if we help save just one soul, that makes a huge difference!
    - Teach class, encourage, write letters/cards, visit, serve others, etc.
    - Put spotlight on Jesus instead of ourselves