

Mark 3:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,

Analysis

This verse lists remaining apostles: Andrew (Peter's brother), Philip, Bartholomew (likely Nathanael), Matthew (Levi), Thomas (Didymus), James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus (Judas son of James), Simon the Canaanite (Zealot). This diverse group included fishermen, tax collector, political revolutionary, skeptic—unlikely teammates united by Christ's call. Reformed theology emphasizes God's sovereign election transcends human qualifications and unites diverse individuals. The Twelve's diversity foreshadows church's universal composition.

Historical Context

The apostolic band reflected first-century diversity. Matthew (tax collector) collaborated with Rome; Simon (Zealot) opposed occupation—natural enemies united in Christ. Philip and Andrew had Greek names, suggesting Hellenistic influence. Little is known about several apostles—their obscurity demonstrates faithful service matters more than fame. Church tradition assigns missionary activity: Thomas to India, Philip to Asia Minor, etc.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the Twelve's diversity challenge you to pursue gospel unity with different believers?
2. What does inclusion of political enemies (Matthew and Simon) teach about Christ's reconciling power?
3. How does obscurity of several apostles encourage faithful service without recognition?

Interlinear Text

καὶ Ἀνδρέαν καὶ Φίλιππον καὶ Βαρθολομαῖον καὶ

And **Andrew** **And** **Philip** **And** **Bartholomew** **And**
G2532 G406 G2532 G5376 G2532 G918 G2532

Ματθαῖον, καὶ Θωμᾶν καὶ Ἰάκωβον τὸν τὸν

Matthew **And** **Thomas** **And** **James** **the son** **the son**
G3156 G2532 G2381 G2532 G2385 G3588 G3588

Ἀλφαίου καὶ Θαδδαῖον καὶ Σίμωνα τὸν Κανανίτην,

of Alphaeus **And** **Thaddaeus** **And** **Simon** **the son** **the Canaanite**
G256 G2532 G2280 G2532 G4613 G3588 G2581

Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:13 (Parallel theme): And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

Mark 2:14 (Parallel theme): And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.

Matthew 9:9 (Parallel theme): And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

James 1:1 (Parallel theme): James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

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