

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**  
**MARCH 21, 2022**

Today we look at the disciple Bartholomew. Who was he? There is very little information biblically so we must also look at historical writings and tradition. The name Bartholomew most likely comes from the Aramaic (Bar-Talmi), meaning son of Talmi. His name often appears with Philip and tradition leads us to believe that they did ministry together later. John's gospel is the only one that mentions a disciple named Nathaniel, which adds to the confusion about whether they may be the same person. The fact that Philip went to find Nathaniel also raises questions.

When Jesus sent out the disciples two by two, Bartholomew, possibly paired with Philip, was given the power to "heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons" (Matthew 10:8).

There is no biblical record of where Bartholomew did ministry, but the early church history records wrote that Bartholomew preached in India.

There are several traditions about how Bartholomew died, but the most popular tradition is that he was flayed and then beheaded. Fox's *Book of Martyrs* records that in India, "He was at length cruelly beaten and then crucified by the impatient idolaters." Another tradition claims he was beaten unconscious and drowned in the ocean.

However he died, it was because Bartholomew was faithful to the Lord who had called him and had sent him out to preach the gospel.

*Lord, we may not know much about some of your servants, but You know all about them and their faithful service even unto death. Amen.*