

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

APRIL 8, 2022

The list of the disciples includes a person named Judas. It is thought that in later writings his name was shortened to Jude to avoid any confusion with Judas Iscariot. He is also sometimes called Thaddeus. It was not uncommon for people to have two names, therefore Judas Thaddeus. Mark, in his Gospel, simply calls him Thaddeus (Mark 3:16-19).

The Book of Jude in our New Testament begins with the words “Jude, a bond servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James...” If the James that Jude refers to is James the Just, the brother of Jesus, then Jude is also the brother of Jesus. Remember that when Jesus preached in his hometown, people doubted Him because they knew his family, which included his brother, Jude/Judas. They said, “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?” (Matthew 13:55)

A thirteenth century compilation of historical biography, *The Golden Legend*, records that Jude started preaching in Mesopotamia (modern day Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, and Israel) and then joined with Simon the Zealot in ministry. It is believed that Jude was martyred in Iran on his missionary journey with Simon the Zealot. It is said that when they were preaching against idols, the people came upon them with axes and killed them. Tradition says that such thunder and lightning came upon the crowd that the temple of the idols was broken into three pieces, and the two enchanters in the temple were struck by lightning and killed. Jude is buried in Saint Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City.

While there are many things that we cannot know for certain, one thing we know; he answered the call of Jesus to carry the Gospel into the world.

Lord, might we be as faithful to follow You as those disciples were. We thank You for the ministry and the writing of Jude with cautions to the Church. Amen.

Pastor Louise