



St. Matthias
May 14

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Biblical Figure

Matthias had been a follower of Jesus ever since He started preaching. Matthias was there at Jesus's baptism in the river Jordan. He followed Jesus during the three years when He preached in Galilee about God's Kingdom. He marveled over Jesus's great miracles.

Then Judas, one of the Twelve Apostles, betrayed Jesus. Judas was a thief. He secretly stole from the Apostles' moneybag. The Pharisees paid Judas thirty pieces of silver to betray Jesus. Judas took the silver and led soldiers to where Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, and there they arrested Jesus. When Matthias heard the news that the Romans had crucified Jesus, his heart broke. But when he heard the news that Jesus had risen from the dead, his heart rejoiced!

After Jesus ascended into heaven, Peter—the leader of the Twelve Apostles—called together 120 of Jesus's followers. Peter declared that one of Jesus's disciples, someone who had followed Jesus since He started preaching, should take Judas's place as one of the Twelve. The 120 men thought, prayed, and recommended two men: a man called Barsabbas and Matthias. They then prayed, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two You have chosen."

After the prayer, they cast lots (which are sticks or stones with markings) to select the person to replace Judas. They did this so that God would be the one to choose between Barsabbas and Matthias. The lot with the right mark fell to Matthias, and the men welcomed him among the Apostles. They knew he was a good man and would preach about Jesus to the ends of the earth!

And that is what Matthias did. He baptized believers in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. He preached the Good News of Jesus's resurrection. It is said that he was martyred for his Faith.

St. Matthias, help me to be ready to serve God whenever He calls me!