

May 3

# Sts. Philip and James

Biblical Figures

Jesus called Philip to be one of his disciples. He said to Philip, "Follow me," and Philip chose to follow the Lord. Not only that, he brought his friend Nathanael to Jesus, and Nathanael also became one of the Twelve Apostles.

One day, a large crowd of more than five thousand people came to listen to Jesus. Jesus asked Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" Jesus already knew what He was going to do, but Philip did not know what Jesus was thinking. He did know, however, that they did not have enough money to buy food for so large a crowd. He said to Jesus that he could work outside for two hundred days straight and still not earn enough money to buy everyone food.

But then Jesus's disciple Andrew brought a boy to Jesus who had five loaves and two fish, though Andrew knew that so little food could not feed so many people. Jesus told the disciples to have everyone sit down. He then took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and gave pieces of the loaves and the fish to the crowd. The five loaves and the two fish multiplied so that everyone could eat as much as they wanted! There was even enough bread left over to fill twelve wicker baskets. Philip and everyone else were amazed at this great miracle!

It is said that after Jesus's resurrection Philip preached the Good News of Jesus to the Greeks in the city of Hierapolis. There, he was crucified upside down and became a martyr for Jesus.

Two of Jesus's Apostles were named James. This James was a relative of Jesus and just a few years older than Him. Known as a just man, he prayed so much on his knees that they grew as tough and hard as a camel's hooves.

After Jesus died and rose from the dead, James became the bishop of Jerusalem. He cared for the Jewish Christians, baptized them, and taught them about Jesus. He wrote a letter in the New Testament called The Epistle of James, which you can read in the Bible. James, too, was martyred for his witness to Jesus.

Sts. Philip and James, help me to answer Jesus's call!

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