

The Feast of Sts. Thaddeus and Bartholomew

The Enlighteners of Armenia



When Jesus started teaching people about God, he chose special people to learn from him. These special students would then go to many other places to spread Jesus' message. One of these special people was Philip. When Philip realized Jesus was a great teacher, he went to a friend of his called Bartholomew to tell him about Jesus. This is what the Bible says about how

Jesus and Bartholomew met:

"The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Philip found Nathaniel (Bartholomew) and said to him, 'We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' Nathaniel said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said, 'Come and see.'

"Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to him, and said of him, 'Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile.' Nathaniel said to him, 'How do

you know me?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.’

“Nathaniel answered him, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’

“Jesus answered him, ‘Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these.’ And he said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’ ”

John 1:43-51

Saint Thaddeus and Saint Bartholomew were with Jesus throughout his ministry, after Jesus’ arrest and trial, his crucifixion and burial. They witnessed his resurrection and met with Jesus many times before he ascended to heaven. While Jesus was with them he taught them to teach others the Good News. Jesus told them to tell others that God loved them and gave them Jesus as a gift of love. And Jesus told us the Good News that we do not have to be afraid of death any more. He told us that if we believe in Jesus and follow his teachings, we will begin a new life with God after we die.



After the Ascension when Jesus went up to heaven, the disciples waited as he told them until the Holy Spirit came to them. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit did come and they understood everything that had happened and everything Jesus said. They all went to different places to spread the Good News.

Saint Thaddeus traveled to Armenia first. He preached to many people including the king's daughter. Saint Thaddeus was killed by the king because the king was afraid that Thaddeus would get his false pagan gods angry.

Not long after that, Saint Bartholomew came to Armenia. He taught just as Thaddeus had. He also was killed by the king.

Both apostles died, but not before they had started the Church in Armenia. Eventually Armenia became a Christian country because of the work of Thaddeus and Bartholomew.



I Can Do It!

We all know lots of things about ourselves. We know what we can do well. Look at the sentences below and complete them to make a list of what you can do!

1. I'm very, very good at _____
2. Something I can teach others because I am good at it is _____
3. I was a leader once when _____
4. Something new I learned to do recently is _____
5. Something I did that I didn't think I could do at first is _____
6. I felt successful when _____
7. One day I would like to try _____
8. All by myself I learned _____
9. My parents are proud of me when _____
10. What I like best about church is _____

FROM JERUSALEM TO ARMENIA

1. Color the bodies of water blue.
2. Color Armenia green.
3. Draw a dotted line from Jerusalem to Armenia to show the route you think Thaddeus might have taken.
4. Draw a straight line indicating Bartholomew's route.
5. Notice how far Jerusalem is from Armenia. Thaddeus and Bartholomew must have been very eager to spread God's word!

