

St. Bartholomew, 8/ 24/ 24

1 St. Bartholomew shows up in the Synoptic Gospels in list of the disciples. In John at 1:43 (mp 2nd reading) under the fig tree as Nathanael.

2 Bartholomew means “Son of Tolmai” which could be a surname with Nathanael as a given name. Philip and Bartholomew grouped together in lists. Philip was friends with Nathanel in John.

3 Other than that we don't have any more biblical information. Tradition preached in Armenia (along with Thaddeus) was martyred by being flayed alive and then beheaded. Shown in art with a flaying knife. He holds his skin in Michaelangelo's sistine chapel painting.

4 The readings today do not mention Bartholomew by name instead refer to the company of the apostles together. The point being that B. wasn't prominent even among the Apostles.

5 Yet Christ addresses them all, “Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.” This too, is our calling. To continue with Christ. To persist with Christ. Not to be envious of His glory, but simply to be faithful with the tasks that God sends our way each day. To be strong, staying by our Lord Jesus’ side.

6 Not about fame or accolades or praise for us. It is about simply serving others with love and care and conscientiousness.

7 We can assume that B., like all of the Apostles, performed healings and signs. We can assume that, like all of the Apostles, that he caused a stir everywhere he went. Yet the most important thing is that he remained faithful, that he daily served his Lord and his neighbors as he was called to do.

8 And this is our calling too. The path to greatness in the Kingdom of God is not to desire the praise of man through our outward great deeds. It is rather to follow the example of Christ, becoming a servant to all, and

always pointing to others and especially to our Lord Jesus. Always giving Him the praise and the glory and trusting that God is honored by our service even when no one knows what we have done. Especially when no one knows what we have done.

9 Perhaps this is our challenge this week. Perform an act of service to another person that only you know about. Do it out of love for God and love for others. Do not do it out of desire to be acknowledged. Simply share the gift of life and love that we have in Christ with another.

10 We celebrate St. Bartholomew because he was counted faithful among the Apostles, because He served God even to the point of martyrdom. May we follow his example in that we too will be counted among the faithful and inherit the riches of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

10 In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.