

DAVID TATE

WHO WAS THADDAEUS? (JUDAS OF JAMES?)



THADDAEUS

IN THE

THE CHOSEN

THADDAEUS

ACCORDING TO

THE BIBLE

THADDAEUS = JUDAS OF JAMES?

- **THADDAEUS** is identified by **Matthew** and **Mark** as a member of the Twelve, in the third group alongside James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot.
- **JUDAS, THE SON OF JAMES**, is identified by **Luke** as a member of the Twelve, in the third group alongside James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot.
- **JUDAS (NOT ISCARIOT)** is mentioned by **John** as being present at the Last Supper, an event that only the Twelve were present at.
- **JUDAS** is a **Hebrew name**. There was at least one (possible two) other member(s) of the Twelve named Judas.
- **THADDAEUS** is a **Greek name** that could serve as a nickname.

We have good reason to believe that Judas (not Iscariot), the son of James, is the same person as Thaddaeus.



BIOGRAPHICAL INFO

NAME: JUDAS/JUDE (יהודה / 'Ιούδας) – “praised” (Lk 6:16; Ac 1:13)

NICKNAME(S):

THADDAEUS (Θαδδαῖος) – “courageous heart” (Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18)

LEBBAEUS (Λεββαῖος) – “man of heart” (some mss of Mt 10:3)

“NOT ISCARIOT” (Jn 14:22)

FATHER: JAMES/JACOB (יעקב / 'Ιάκωβος) (Lk 6:16; Ac 1:13)

MOTHER: ???

SIBLING(S):

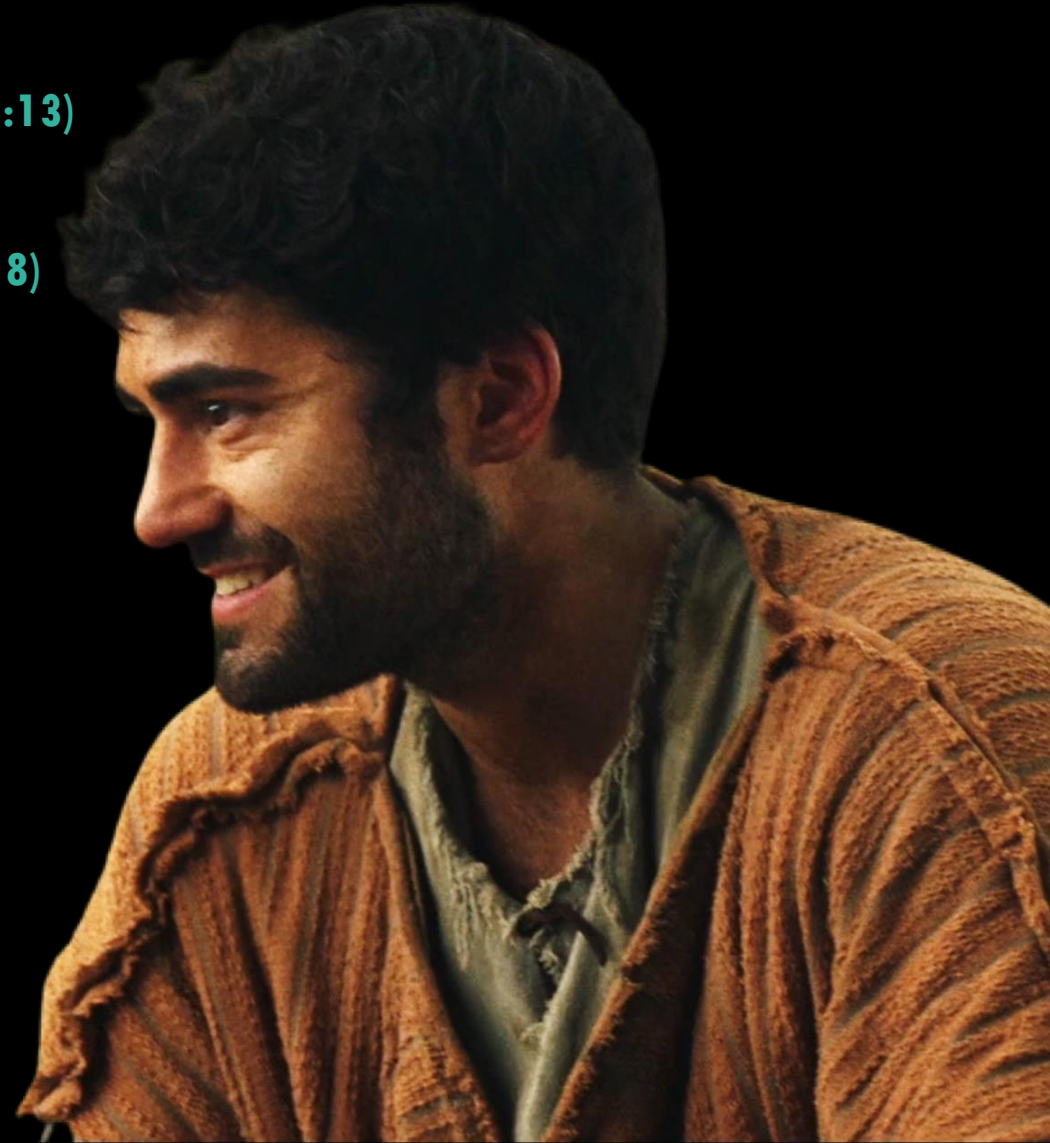
SPOUSE: ???

HOMETOWN/PLACE OF RESIDENCE: ???

EDUCATION: ???

LANGUAGE: ARAMAIC (likely Greek & biblical Hebrew as well)

OCCUPATION: ???



HOW OLD WAS THADDAEUS?

HOW OLD WERE THE DISCIPLES?

- Jesus was around 30 when he began his ministry (Lk 3:23), the typical age for a rabbi.
- Students were usually younger than their rabbis. Jesus refers to them as “little children” (Mt 10:42; 11:25).
- Education ended between ages 12-15. Some disciples were already practicing trades (i.e. Lk 5:1-11; Mt 9:9).
- As far as we know, Simon was the only married one at the time (Mt 8:14-15; Mk 1:29-31; Lk 4:38-39) at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry; the average age for marriage was 18.
- As far as we know, by the third year of Jesus’ ministry, Simon was the only one who had to pay the temple tax (Mt 17:24-27), which began at age 20 (Ex 30:14).

Most of the disciples were likely young teenagers at the time they began following Christ.

Thaddaeus was likely a young teenager (~14-16) at the time he began following Christ.

THADDAEUS IN THE GOSPELS

FIRST ENCOUNTER, CALLING: ???

KEY MOMENT:

- **Thaddaeus is only directly mentioned in one story in the Gospels, when he asks Jesus how He is planning on manifesting Himself to the Twelve, but not to the rest of the world (Jn 14:22).**



THADDAEUS IN THE GOSPELS

LIFE AS A DISCIPLE:

Thaddaeus is consistently listed in the 3rd group of the Twelve.

Like the rest of the Twelve, Thaddaeus...

- ...was appointed by Jesus (Mt 10:1-2; Mk 3:13-16; Lk 6:12-13)
- ...travelled with Jesus (Mt 26:20; Mk 14:17)
- ...received insight to Jesus' teachings (Mk 4:10)
- ...was sent out to preach (Mt 10:5-42; Mk 6:7-13; Lk 9:1-6)
- ...baptized people (Jn 4:2)
- ...performed miracles (Mk 6:13; Lk 9:1-2)
- ...was challenged by Jesus' teachings (Mk 9:36; Jn 6:67-71)
- ...heard Christ predict his death (Mt 20:17; Mk 10:32)
- ...fled at Christ's arrest (Mt 26:56; Mk 14:50)
- ...saw the resurrected Christ (Lk 24:33-49; Jn 20:19-28)
- ...witnessed the ascension (Lk 24:50-53; Ac 1:6-11)

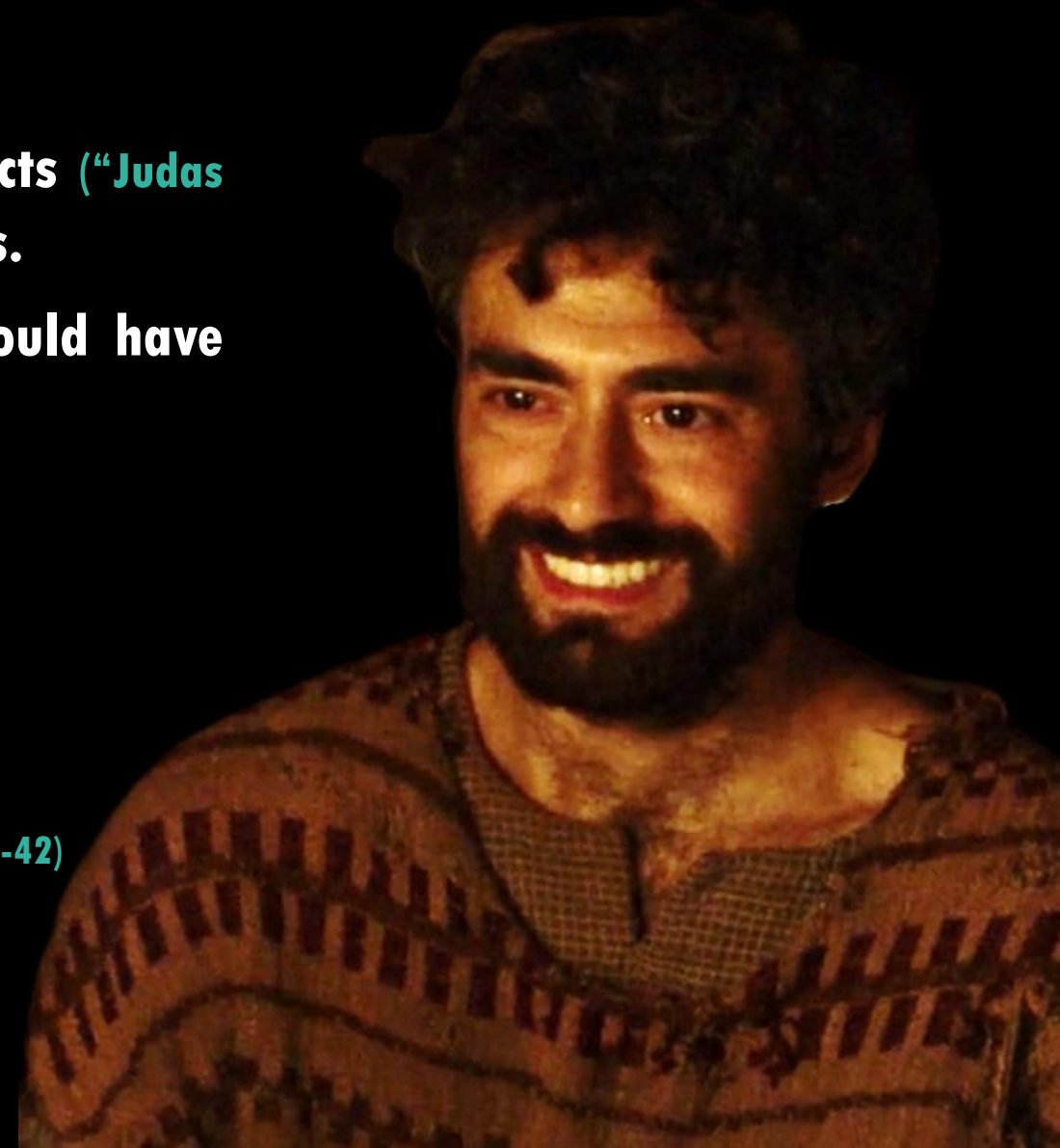
MATTHEW 10	MARK 3	LUKE 6	ACTS 1
Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Peter
Andrew	James of Zebedee	Andrew	John
James of Zebedee	John	James of Zebedee	James
John	Andrew	John	Andrew
Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip
Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
Thomas	Matthew	Matthew	Bartholomew
Matthew	Thomas	Thomas	Matthew
James of Alphaeus	James of Alphaeus	James of Alphaeus	James of Alphaeus
Thaddaeus	Thaddaeus	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot
Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot	Judas of James	Judas of James
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	

THADDAEUS IN ACTS & THE EPISTLES

Thaddaeus is only mentioned once in the book of Acts (“**Judas of James,**” 1:13), and is never mentioned in the Epistles.

Along with the rest of the apostles, Thaddaeus would have been present...

- ... at the Ascension (Ac 1:6-11)
- ... when they replaced Judas Iscariot (Ac 1:12-26)
- ... when the Spirit fell at Pentecost (Ac 2:1-13)
- ... when Peter delivered the first sermon (Ac 2:14-41)
- ... in the establishing of the Jerusalem church (Ac 2:42-47)
- ... as the Jerusalem church continued to grow (Ac 4:32-37)
- ... when the high priest began to arrest the apostles (Ac 5:17-42)
- ... when they appointed the seven deacons (Ac 6:1-7)

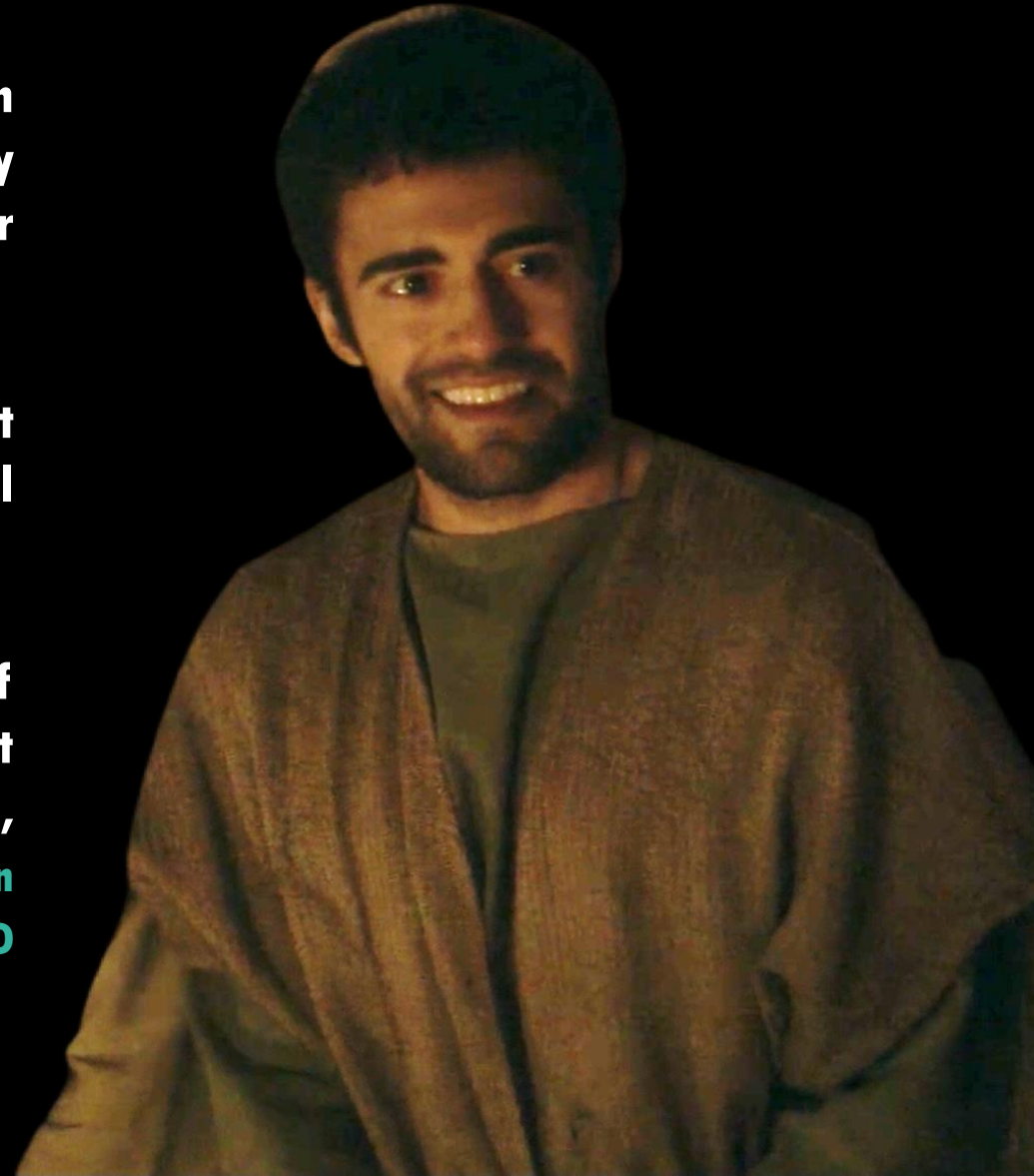


**THADDAEUS
ACCORDING TO**

TRADITION

TRAVELS & TRADITIONS

- Some have argued that Thaddaeus was a **Zealot**, much like Simon the Zealot, because some Coptic manuscripts of John (14:22) identify him as 'Judas the Cananite,' similar to Simon the Zealot's other title, Simon the Cananaean (Mt 10:4; Mk 3:18).
- There is an early tradition (Eusebius, *Church History* 1.13, 4th cent.) that **Jesus sent Thaddaeus to Edessa** to preach, evangelize, and heal King Abgar V (AD 13-50).
- Traditional locations attributed to the missionary work of Thaddaeus are all over the map, making it difficult to be confident in which are true. Some locations include **Syria** (Coptic tradition), **Edessa** (Eusebius, 4th cent.; *Acts of Thaddaeus*, 5th cent.), **Persia** (Western tradition, 6th-7th cent.), **Mesopotamia** (*Brevarium Apostolorum*, c. AD 600), and **Armenia** (Armenian tradition).



THE FATE OF THADDAEUS

There is no shortage of traditions regarding Thaddaeus' fate. Some suggest that he:

- 1) died peacefully in Syria (Coptic tradition)
- 2) was shot with arrows and stoned to death in Syria (another Coptic tradition)
- 3) died peacefully in Edessa (*Hippolytus*, 4th cent.; *Acts of Thaddaeus*, 5th cent.)
- 4) killed with swords in Suinar, Persia (*Pseudo-Abdias*, 6th-7th cent.)
- 5) died (likely peacefully) in Armenia (*Breviarium Apostolorum*, c. AD 600)
- 6) pierced with arrows in Arat, Armenia (later Greek versions)

That being said, we really have no way of determining precisely how Thaddeus died. We simply don't know.

SEAN McDOWELL'S CONCLUSIONS:

1. THADDAEUS ENGAGED IN MISSIONARY WORK OUTSIDE JERUSALEM – very probably true
2. THADDAEUS EXPERIENCED MARTYRDOM – as plausible as not

Pomarancio, "Martyrdrom of St. Jude Thaddeus" (14th c.)

