



From the Deacon's Desk

At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Christ commands his Apostles to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." The apostles accepted Christ's mandate and set out to do exactly as he commanded. So, where did they go?

Peter

It's believed he traveled to Antioch and established a community there [he is often called the first bishop of Antioch] and then visited Corinth before heading to Rome. There he helped form the Christian community and was ultimately martyred in the Circus of Nero around 64 AD. Scholars believe Paul was also martyred in Rome very near that same time.

Andrew

Andrew, Peter's brother, is known as the Apostle to the Greeks. It is believed that he preached to Greek communities and was martyred at Patras on a cross in the shape of an X.

James the Great

James was the first apostle to be martyred. We read [In the Acts of the Apostles] that "Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James, the brother of John with the sword" (12:1-2). He died in Jerusalem in 44 AD at the hands of King Herod. Tradition holds that his body was transferred to Spain and is in Santiago de Compostela. That tomb is a destination point of the centuries-old pilgrimage, El Camino, still popular today.

John

John, the author of the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation, is the only apostle not martyred. He died around 100 AD and is thought to be buried near Ephesus [modern-day Turkey].

Philip

Philip ministered to Greek-speaking communities. We know little about his adventures, except that he was martyred around 80 AD. Some of his relics are located in the Basilica Santi Apostoli, in Rome.

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Bartholomew

Little is known about Bartholomew. Historians believed that he was martyred, and some of his remains are currently located at the church of St. Bartholomew-in-the-Island, in Rome.

Thomas

The “doubting” apostle, Thomas is widely known for his missionary efforts in India. He died around 72 AD, and his tomb is in Mylapore, India.

Matthew

Matthew is most well known for his Gospel. He preached to various communities in the Mediterranean before his martyrdom in Ethiopia.

James the Less

After the apostles left Jerusalem, James remained and became the first bishop in the holy city. He remained there for several decades until he was stoned to death by the Jewish authorities in the year 62. He authored the New Testament's “Epistle of St. James”.

Judas Thaddeus

The “forgotten” apostle due to his name being the same as Judas Iscariot, St. Jude is revered by the Armenian Church as the “Apostle to the Armenians.” He suffered martyrdom around 65 AD in Beirut, Lebanon.

Simon, the Zealot

Simon is often depicted with Judas Thaddeus, and some believe they preached together as a team because a tradition states they were both martyred in Beirut in the same year.

Matthias

After being chosen as the “replacement apostle,” one tradition states that Matthias founded a church in Cappadocia and ministered to Christians on the coasts of the Caspian Sea. It is believed that he died a martyr's death being beheaded with an ax.

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