

Matthew 10:16-28
Martyrs: The Apostles

Go ...

I. The Twelve

- A. Called
- B. Equipped
- C. Sent

I. Their Testimony

- A. The Word
- B. Their Witness
- C. Worthy Minus One
 - 1. Simon Peter
 - 2. Andrew
 - 3. James the son of Zebedee
 - 4. John his brother
 - 5. Philip
 - 6. Bartholomew
 - 7. Thomas
 - 8. Matthew
 - 9. James son of Alphaeus
 - 10. Thaddaeus
 - 11. Simon the Cananaean
 - 12. Judas Iscariot
 - 13. Matthias
 - 14. Paul

III. Their Tribulation

- A. Warfare
- B. And Winners

... *I am with you.*

Children, Listen ...

1. Can you name Jesus' 12 apostles?
2. When Jesus sent them out, what did he warn them about?
3. Which 2 of the 12 were not killed as martyrs?
4. Will you take some time to pray for people who suffer for Jesus today?

There Were Twelve

They were not extraordinary men in and of themselves, but God called them to serve him in extraordinary ways. It is hard to estimate the significance of the twelve (minus Judas + Matthias) men God chose as foundational to His church. Consider what the apostle abnormally born wrote about the others: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, Ephesians 2:19,20. And this significant symbol in the one non-martyr apostle's' apocalyptic vision: And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Revelation 21:14 In the eyes of the world they were seen as: We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things. 1Corinthians 4:13 Yet, in the eyes of the saints they are to be admired and respected, but not venerated. They understood themselves as humble servants of Christ, not super-apostles, men who love and served the Lord despite terrible trials and persecution. Each one of them stands in the tradition of the prophets who were persecuted for righteousness's sake. Likewise all men, women and children who have followed and are following in the footsteps of the faithful who face suffering unto death should be specially admired and respected by those of us who live in the luxury of religious freedom. They are worthy of special honor and desperate need our prayers and support.