

the first disciple evidently belongs to St. Philip. He, like St. Andrew and St. Peter, was a native of Bethsaida, a town near the Sea of Tiberias: and a beautiful trait in his character is, that having learnt to know the Lord himself, his very first act was to bring a companion named Nathaniel, to Christ also; and this love for the souls of others must have continued in him, as we read in St. John's Gospel, Chap. xii. that it was to St. Philip the Greek proselytes came, asking to see Jesus, and he, together with St. Andrew, brought them to Him. St. Philip is mentioned two other times by St. John: once, when to try his faith, our Lord asked him where they should get bread for the multitudes that followed Him: and again, in that last discourse with His disciples before His death, from which the Gospel for the day is taken, where the Lord gently rebukes him for having been so long time with Him, yet having not known Him.

After the Ascension, St. Philip went into Upper Asia, where he converted many heathen. At last he came to Hierapolis, a large city in Phrygia wholly given to idolatry, and especially to the worship of a huge serpent. By his preaching, prayers, and exhortations, St. Philip turned the hearts of the people of the city from their idols, and led them to the only living and true God; but this so enraged the chief men of the place, that they cast him into prison, and having caused him to be severely scourged, afterwards put him to death. Some say that he was hanged by the neck against a pillar; others that he was nailed to a cross, and then stoned. In either way he, too, became a martyr and sealed his faith in Christ with his blood. He is generally represented with a scourge in his hand."

"Thank you, dear mamma, very much. Will you now tell me something about St. James? Is he the brother of St. John?"

"No; this St. James is usually called the Lord's brother, by which it is supposed is meant His cousin, or the son of Joseph by a former marriage. He is also sometimes called the son of Alphaeus and St. James the Less, or the Just, to distinguish him from James the Son of Zebedee, who is called St. James the Great. Very little is related of this apostle during our Lord's life; he seems to have been of a meek, humble spirit, never seeking to be first, but contented with the lowest place, and therefore we find that afterwards he was amongst those most highly honoured, for 'he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.'

It was to St. James our Lord appeared alone after His Resurrection: and he was the one chosen as first Bishop of Jerusalem. As such we hear of him frequently in the Acts of the Apostles, guiding, counselling and directing the Christians who formed the church in that city. But his very goodness made him to be hated; they who had rejected his Blessed Lord and Master would not spare the humble lowly servant. The Scribes and Pharisees accused him of blasphemy against God, and of transgressing the laws; then when they had him in their power, they tried to make him deny Jesus, and tell the people He was not the Christ. They placed him on one of the pinnacles of the Temple, and said to him, 'Now tell us, O just man, concerning Jesus who was crucified,' thinking fear would surely make him renounce Him. But St. James answered with a loud voice, "Why do ye enquire of Jesus the Son of Man? He sits in Heaven on the right Hand of the Majesty on High, and will come again in the clouds of Heaven.' And all the people below heard him and glorified Jesus, and said, 'Hosanna to the Son of David.'

Then the wicked Scribes and Pharisees in their rage threw him down. Ho