

May 3, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

Photo by Tomas Williams from Pexels

FEAST OF SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Readings

*[Paul said to the Corinthians:] For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to **James**, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me.*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-8

*[Jesus said to Thomas,] “If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” **Philip** said to him, “Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time, and you still do not know me,*

Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves.

JOHN 14:7-11

Reflection

In 1 Corinthians, Paul states that the risen Christ appeared to all the apostles, even to him at a later time. Peter, James, and all the apostles saw Jesus in his resurrected state: Jesus gave them his peace, showed them his wounds, ate with them, even prepared breakfast for them on the beach. After Jesus ascended into heaven, the apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, set out on their mission to spread the Gospel everywhere. **James the Apostle**, sometimes called *James the Less(er) or James the Younger*, was the son of Alphaeus from Bethsaida in Galilee. James was also called *the Brother of Jesus*, the term used for a cousin according to Jewish custom. James became the revered Bishop of the Church in Jerusalem. On Paul's last visit to Jerusalem, he met with James, describing him as a pillar of the Church in Jerusalem along with Peter and John. At one point, he was named *James the Just* because of his manner of leading the community of believers in Jerusalem. James is considered the writer of the Epistle of James although his authorship was disputed in the past. James was martyred in this way: he was preaching on the pinnacle of the Temple, and he was pushed off to his near death. Still alive, he was beaten with a fuller's club and stoned to death. His remains were buried beside the Temple and later transferred to Rome. It was around the year 62 CE.

The second reading above is taken from Jesus' Last Discourse at the Last Supper. **Philip** was longing to see the face of the Father, so he asked Jesus, "*Show us the Father...*" Jesus responded to Philip with a beautiful exposition of his intimate relationship with his Father. Philip was born in the year 5 CE in a village called Bethsaida on the shore of the Lake of Galilee. He was called to be with Jesus with the two words, "Follow me." Immediately he called his friend Nathanael to come and meet Jesus (John 1:45). Philip's name was Greek, so he probably knew the language. When some Greek Gentile pilgrims were visiting Jerusalem, they approached Philip because they wanted to meet Jesus. Philip and Andrew brought the pilgrims to Jesus (and perhaps translated for Jesus). After the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, Philip was missioned to Greece, Syria, and Phrygia (modern-day Turkey). When Philip was 75 years old, he was preaching the Gospel and healing people

near the city of Hierapolis, in the town of Denizli, Western Turkey. He was crucified there with the apostle Bartholomew (Nathanael's other name). As he was being tortured, he prayed aloud for those who were killing him. The Roman Emperor Domitian changed his mind and ordered the execution to stop but Philip was already dead. Bartholomew, who survived, buried Philip at Phrygia. The year was 80 CE. Later Philip's remains were taken to Rome. Eventually many were baptized in that town.

The feast day for Philip and James is celebrated on May 3.



Photo of Denizli by Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

For Prayer

Their message goes out through all the earth.

*The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims the work of God's hands.
Day unto day takes up the story
and night unto night makes known the message.*

No speech, no word, no voice is heard

*yet their span extends through all the earth,
their words to the utmost bounds of the world.*

Their message goes out through all the earth.

PSALM 19:2-5

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