

CELEBRATE EASTER

Saints Philip and James, Apostles

**Forbearance is indulgence towards those who injure us... delay of
resentment or punishment.**

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

In this excerpt, Paul tells us that his call was God's favor or grace and that he was last among the witnesses to whom the risen Jesus had appeared. Paul calls himself "last" and "least" and "one born abnormally." However, he says, he has "worked harder than all the others" and adds "not on my own but through the grace of God within me", "I am what I am by the grace of God" (v. 10). The grace of God has transformed an enemy of the gospel into one of its greatest defenders and proclaimers. He says that he was blessed and brought into the company of many great men like Peter, James, the twelve apostles and other 500 people to whom the risen Christ appeared, by God's Grace...

It is awe-inspiring as well as humbling to remember that we are called and sent with a mission that is far greater than us...far greater than all of us put together!

Psalm 19

**The heavens declare the glory of God,
And the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day pours out the word today;
And night to night imparts knowledge.**

John 14:6-14

"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father....I am in the Father and the Father is in me.....the man who has faith in me will do the works I do and even greater than these.....because it is the father who lives in me accomplishing his works....."

Jesus said that the things he said and the things he did, did not come from himself, his own initiative or his own power or his own knowledge, but from God. His word was God's word, his work was God's work, his power was God's power, his life was God's life.....God came through in all he was and in all he said and in all he did.....

In Jesus we meet God...God's message, God's mind, God's heart..... And in us, today, the world must meet all that is from God and of God.....

Jesus said that the disciples would do what he did and even greater. We, the disciples of today must continue the mission of Jesus.

We must trust the promise of Jesus that it is God, the Father, doing His work in us...speaking His word through us.... working out His plan through us!

Saint of the Day, May 3 - Saints Philip and James, Apostles and 12 other saints are remembered this day

We know nothing about James, Son of Alphaeus, except his name, and that Jesus chose him to be one of the 12 Apostles. He is not the James of Acts, son of Clopas, and later bishop of Jerusalem and the traditional author of the Letter of James. James, son of Alphaeus, is also known as James the Lesser to avoid confusing him with James the son of Zebedee, also an apostle and known as James the Greater.

Philip came from the same town as Peter and Andrew, Bethsaida in Galilee. He is specially remembered as the man who found Nathanael and told him of the “one about whom Moses wrote” (Jn 1:45). It took him a while to understand Jesus and his ways. On one occasion, Jesus asked Philip where they could buy bread for the people to eat (John 6). Philip’s response was that two hundred days’ wages would not be enough to provide even a little food for all. On another occasion (John 14) when Jesus was speaking about going to the father, Philip asked Jesus to “show us the Father” and that is all he wanted. Jesus’ response was, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”

It did take Philip and all the Apostles some time to understand Jesus and his ways. Philip and James call us to be patient, to recognize our imperfections in knowledge and experience and keep striving to know Jesus more and follow him more closely.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs