

# The 12 Who Walked with Jesus: James, the son of Alphaeus

## 1. Learning from his name

- His father was Alphaeus
- “James” is a derivative of the Hebrew name **Jacob** and means **supplanter**  
- a common biblical name and still popular today!
- He was a **tax collector** by vocation
- His mother was **Mary**, a sister to **Jesus’** mother
- “James the Less” (Mark 15:40)

## 2. Looking at his namesakes

- **James, the son of Zebedee**
  - Brother to the Apostle **John**
  - One of the “sons of **Thunder**”
  - “James the Great”

- **James, the son of Mary**
  - Half brother to Jesus
  - Leader at the **Jerusalem** church (Gal. 1:19)
  - Writer of **James** in the New Testament
- **James, the father of Judas**
  - Mentioned in Luke 6:16 and Acts 1:13

### 3. **Lessons** from his **obscurity**

- Jesus selected James after a night of prayer
- The focus of Scripture is not on people or personalities, but on **Jesus!**
- The fact that James is **not mentioned** can be a good thing
- The Lord loves to use those who are **humble**
- James reminds us of **ourselves**
- Just because a person's deeds are unrecorded doesn't mean that they will be **unrewarded**