

The Gospel of Mark

Session 11 – Apr. 17th – Chapters 3-4

Apostle

From: <https://carm.org/dictionary-apostle>

An apostle is someone sent with a special message or commission. [Jesus](#) is called the apostle and high Priest of our confession in [Hebrews 3:1](#). The twelve apostles of Jesus were Simon Peter, Andrew, James the son of Zebedee, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot who was replaced by Mathias ([Acts 1:26](#)). Paul became an apostle after Jesus' resurrection ([2 Cor. 1:1](#)), along with Barnabas ([Acts 14:14](#)) and others.

Apostles established churches ([Rom. 15:17-20](#)), exposed error ([Gal. 1:6-9](#)), and defended the truth of the gospel ([Phil. 1:7, 17](#)). Some were empowered by the [Holy Spirit](#) to perform miracles ([Matt. 10:1, 8](#)), and they were to preach the gospel ([Matt. 28:19, 20](#)).

A quick look at how the word is used in the [Bible](#), and there are several categories that arise:

1. There are apostles who were only among the 12. They performed miracles. Some wrote Scripture. ([Acts 1:21-22](#))
2. Paul was an apostle (unique?) specifically commissioned by Christ. He performed miracles and wrote Scripture. ([Acts 14:14, 1 Cor. 9:1, Gal. 1:1](#))
3. Barnabas is an apostle. He performed no miracles and wrote no Scripture. ([Acts 14:14, 8-18](#))
4. Jesus is called an apostle. He performed miracles. ([Heb. 3:1](#))
5. There are apostles in the sense of simply being sent. They are messengers. They perform no miracles. ([2 Cor. 8:23, Phil. 2:25, John 20:21](#))
6. It could be possible that anyone who was involved in Christ's ministry before His death and saw Him after His resurrection could be referred to as apostles. ([Acts 1:21-22](#))
7. There are false apostles. ([2 Cor. 11:13, Rev. 2:2](#))

List of Apostles *[From some website that I forgot to cite. Thanks to whoever put together the list]*

- **The Twelve**
- **Matthias** - selected to replace Judas Iscariot ([Acts 1:15-26](#)).
- **Barnabas** - a missionary "sent out" by the Jerusalem apostles ([Acts 11:22, 30; 12:25](#)), later by the Church of Antioch ([Acts 13:1-15:39](#)); Luke and Paul explicitly call him an "apostle" ([Acts 14:14; 1 Cor 9:1-6](#)).
- **Paul** - often calls himself an "apostle" of Jesus, esp. in beginning his letters ([Rom 1:1; 1 Cor 1:1; 2 Cor 1:1; Gal 1:1; Eph 1:1; etc](#)), or when stressing his equal status with the other apostles ([Rom 11:13; 1 Cor 9:1-5; 15:7-10; 2 Cor 12:12; Gal 1:17-19](#)).
- **Jesus** - referred to in the Letter to the Hebrews as "the *apostle* and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to the one who appointed him" ([Heb 3:1b-2a](#))

- **False apostles** - warned against, but not identified more specifically (2 Cor 11:13; Rev 2:2)
- **Apollos** - never individually called an "apostle," but discussed among Paul & Peter, followed by a reference to "us apostles" (1 Cor 4:9; cf. 1:12; 3:4—4:6)
- **Silas & Timothy** - again, not called "apostles" individually, but included when Paul says, "we... as apostles of Christ" (1 Thess 2:6)
- **Andronicus and Junia** - "relatives" of Paul, who are "prominent among the apostles" (Rom 16:7) Some believe these two are also Apostles; however, the meaning seems more naturally interpreted to mean that they were well known believers to the Apostles, not Apostles themselves.

3:20-30 The Official Assessment of Jesus

v. 21 His relatives have decided that Jesus is _____.

v.22 The religious leaders accuse Jesus of being under "Beelzebul's" power and _____.

vv.23-27 Jesus corrects their poor logic and their lack of spiritual understanding.

vv.28-30 Forgivable vs. unforgivable sins. No grace for those calling the Spirit's work _____.

3:31-35 Jesus' Family

Jesus' ministry now faces resistance from His _____.

Jesus turns the thinking of the ancient world upside down by exalting the family of _____.