

Saint James, the Apostle.

St James the Apostle was the son of Zebedee and Salome and elder brother of [St John the disciple](#) (Matthew 4:21-22). He was given the title "the Greater", with greater meaning older or taller, so that he may not be confused with the other apostle also called James the Lesser. He should also not be confused with James the Just who was the author of the Letter of James and the leader of the Jerusalem community.

Together with [St Peter the Apostle](#) and his brother St John the Apostle, they were members of the inner circle of Jesus. They were in the home of Jairus when Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead. **(Luke 8:51 and Mark 5:37).**

James was there during the Transfiguration of Jesus up a high mountain

James was still there in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus was praying before he was crucified

James and his brother John had asked Jesus to guarantee them that, in His glory in heaven, they will sit one at His right and one at His left, but Jesus did not grant that because he told them it was not His to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared.

In Matthew 20:20-28, it is written that it is Salome, the mother of James and John, who requested Jesus to command that her two sons sit, one at His right and the other at His left, in His kingdom.

The same James and his brother John had asked Jesus to call fire down from heaven and burn the Samaritan town after they refused to welcome Jesus, but Jesus rebuked them.

James and John had a very fiery temperament such that Jesus nicknamed them "Sons of Thunder".

After Jesus ascended into Heaven, James preached all over the Roman empire but ultimately landed in Spain where he spread the Gospel with zeal and zest. Legend says that one day as he was praying, The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared and instructed him to build her a church and it was built after James's death.

Out of the twelve apostles of Jesus, it is only the martyrdom of St James the Apostle that is recorded in the New Testament. He was the first apostle to die.

When he returned to Jerusalem from Spain, he was beheaded and ultimately martyred by order of King Herod Agrippa I of Judaea. This martyrdom site is located in the Armenian Apostolic Cathedral of Saint James in the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem. His head is buried under the altar and is marked by a red marble and surrounded by six lamps.

Because he was not allowed to be buried in Jerusalem, his remains were taken to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, by some of his followers and was buried there. Today, his remains are interred in the Cathedral of Santiago where his shrine attracts millions of Christian pilgrims from all over the world. There is a legend that says that his decapitated body was miraculously taken by angels and sailed alone in a boat from Judea to Galicia Spain.

The word Santiago is a Spanish word that evolved from the Latin word Sancti Iacobi, (Saint James). In Portuguese, it is Tiago which is derived from the world Diego.