

A WORD STUDY OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A "DISCIPLE" AND AN "APOSTLE"

Disciple = mathetes (μαθητης)
"learner, follower, student"

These persons had "disciples":

- * John the Baptizer (*Matthew 9:14; John 1:35*)
- * Pharisees (*Matthew 22:15-16*)
- * Moses (*John 9:28*)
- * Jesus (*Luke 6:12, 6:66; Matthew 10:1 - 3; Luke 22:11*)
(one who "abides" = *John 8:31, 13:35, 15:8; Acts 6:1-2, 7; 14:20, 22, 28; 15:10*, et. al.)

Apostle - apostolos (αποστολος)
apo (απω) = "from" + stello (στελλω) = "to send"
"a person who is sent from or sent out"

1. Apostles other than the "twelve":

- * Jesus (*Mt 10:40, Mk 9:37, Lk 10:16, Heb 3:1*)
- * special messengers (*Luke 7:3*)
- * servants (*Mt 21:36, Mk 12:2, Mt 22:3, Mk 6:27*)
- * delegations (*Lk 14:28ff [esp. vss 32]*)
- * angels (*Mt 24:31 [cf Mk 13]*)
- * Holy Spirit (*Lk 24:49*)

2. Others identified as "apostles"

- * Andronicus and Junia (*Rom 16:7*)
- * unnamed "brethren" (*II Cor 8:23*)
- * James (*Gal 1:19*)
- * Epaphroditus (*I Thess 2:6*)
- * Silas and Timothy
- * Barnabas (*Acts 14:4, 14*)
- * Jesus (*Heb 3:1*)

In a "lesser" sense, every Christian is an "*apostle*" for they too have been
"sent out" by Christ to preach/teach His gospel and make "*disciples*."
(*Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 8:4*)

Chart C