

The Portrait of the Apostles: The portrayal of the apostles in Acts is very similar to the portrait of Jesus in Luke's Gospel.

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The Apostles in Acts	Jesus in Luke's Gospel
The Holy Spirit descends on the apostles at Pentecost (2:1-4)	The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus at his baptism (3:21-22)
Peter preaches, quoting from the prophet Joel (2:16-36)	Jesus preaches, after reading from the prophet Isaiah (4:14-30)
The apostles call people to join them (2:37-41, 47b)	Jesus calls his first followers (5:1-11, 27-32)
Peter and John heal a lame beggar (3:1-10)	Jesus heals a blind beggar (18:35-43)
The high priest arrests some of the apostles and questions them before the council (4:1-22)	Jesus is arrested and interrogated by the council (22:47-71)
The narrator summarizes the "signs and wonders" of the apostles, especially the healings and exorcisms (5:12-16; 8:6-7, 13)	The narrator summarizes the healing and exorcistic activity of Jesus (4:40-41; 6:17-19)
The sick are healed through Peter's shadow (5:15) and Paul's handkerchiefs or aprons (19:11-12)	A woman is healed when she touches the fringes of Jesus' clothing (8:43-48)
The Jewish leaders want to kill the apostles, because of their teachings (5:17-42)	Jewish leaders plot to kill Jesus, partly due to his teachings (19:45-48)
Peter raises Tabitha (a.k.a. Dorcas) from the dead (9:36-42)	Jesus raises a widow's son from the dead (7:11-17)
The apostles encounter a pious Roman centurion (10:1-48)	Jesus heals the son of a faithful Roman centurion (7:1-10)
Paul feel compelled by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem, despite the dangers that await him there (19:21; 21:8-17)	Jesus is determined to go to Jerusalem, despite the dangers that await him there (9:51; 13:33; 19:11-28)
Paul is welcomed in Jerusalem by the believers, and soon goes to the temple (21:17-26)	Jesus is welcomed in Jerusalem by large crowds, and soon goes to the temple (19:28-48)
Paul is seized by a Jewish mob that wants him killed, but later stands trial before Roman governors (21:30-36; 23:23-26:32)	Jesus is arrested by a Jewish mob, but is later turned over to the Roman procurator for trial (22:47-54; 23:1-25)
Paul argues against the Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection (23:6-9)	Jesus is questioned by some Sadducees, who dispute the concept of resurrection (20:29-38)
Paul takes bread, gives thanks, breaks it, and eats (27:35; cf. 20:7-11)	Jesus takes bread, says a blessing, breaks it, and gives it to the disciples to eat (27:35; cf. 24:30)
As he is being stoned to death, Stephen hands his spirit over to the Lord Jesus and forgives his executioners (7:59-60)	As he is dying on the cross, Jesus forgives his executioners and hands his spirit over to God (23:34, 46)

Peter and Paul in the Book of Acts

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- Roughly the first half (**Acts 1-12**), dealing with the beginnings of the Church in and around Jerusalem, focuses on the leadership of **Peter** (and John), while the second half (**Acts 13-28**), dealing with the expansion of the Church into non-Jewish areas of the Roman Empire, focuses on the activities of (Barnabas and) **Paul**; but there is some overlap between these apostles:
 - **Paul** (still named Saul before 13:9) is introduced as early as 7:58, and also mentioned in 8:1-3; 9:1-30; 11:25-30.
 - **Peter** (also called Simon in 10:17-18, 32 and Simeon in 15:14) is still a key player in the "Council of Jerusalem" (15:1-35), although the leadership of *James* in the Jerusalem church is already evident by this time (15:13-21; cf. 21:18).
- Although Paul calls himself "an apostle to the Gentiles" (Rom 11:13) and calls Peter "an apostle to the circumcised" (Rom 2:8), in the Acts of the Apostles both Peter and Paul are portrayed as converting both Jews and Gentiles:
 - **Peter** preaches mainly to Jews, but is also involved in the conversion of some Samaritans (8:14-25) and of Cornelius, a Roman centurion (10:1--11:1-18).
 - **Paul** works mainly among Gentiles, but normally begins in a new town by preaching in the local synagogue to his fellow Jews (13:5, 14, 44; 14:1; 17:1; 18:4; etc.).
- Both Peter and Paul do many of the same actions and experience many of the same problems throughout Acts:

Parallel Action	Peter, Ch 2-12	Paul, Ch 13-28
Witness to risen Christ	1:21-22	23:11; 26:16
Spirit initiates	2:1-40	13:1-40
Heals lame and speech	3:12-26	13:1-40
Defended by Pharisees in Sanhedrin	5:34-39	23:9
Appoints leaders with prayer/laying on hands	6:1-6	14:23
Persecution (stoning) leads to wider mission	[6:8-8:4, Stephen]	14:19-23
Accused of acting vs. Moses	[6:13-14, Stephen]	21:20-21; 25:8
Encounters a magician	8:9-24	13:6-12
Laying on hands gives Spirit	8:14-17	19:1-6
Raises the dead	9:36-43	20:9-12
Gentiles try to worship him	10:25-26	14:13-15
Defends Gentile mission in Jerusalem	ch. 11	ch. 21
Imprisoned at Jewish feast	12:4-7	21:16-28
Delivered from prison	12:6-11	16:24-26
Conclusion: Success of word of God	12:24	28:30-31

Evangelists' Summaries of the Ministry of Jesus' Disciples and Others

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Event	Mark	Matthew	Luke	John
Jesus Chooses 12 Apostles to Preach and Heal	3:15	---	---	---
Jesus Sends the Twelve Out on Mission	6:7, 13	10:1, 8	9:1-2, 6	---
Why the Disciples Could Not Heal/Exorcize	9:18, 28	17:16, 19	9:40	---
Another Exorcist, not Jesus' Disciple	9:38-41	10:42	9:49-50	---
Jesus Sends 72 More Disciples out on Mission	[cf. 16:17-18]	---	10:9, 17-20	---
False Prophets Will Show "Signs and Wonders"	13:21-22	24:24	---	---
Herod Hears of Jesus' Exorcisms and Healings	---	---	13:32	---
[Believers Will Perform "Signs"]	[16:17-18]	---	---	---

Traditional Locations where the Apostles Preached and Died

