

Lesson 7 - James, the Son of Alphaeus, Lebbaeus, and Simon the Zealot

DIGGING INTO SCRIPTURE

A. THE BIBLE HAS VERY LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT OUR SUBJECTS FOR THIS LESSON. NONETHELESS LET US READ SOME TEXTS THAT DO MAKE MENTION OF THEM. MATCH THE VERSES WITH THE REFERENCES AND TRY TO DISCOVER SOMETHING ABOUT THESE DISCIPLES.

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| (a) Luke 6:16 | () Labbaeus' Question. |
| (b) John 14:22 | () Lebbaeus, called also Judas. |
| (c) Mark 15:40 | () James called "the Less". |
| (d) Acts 1:13 | () James' Father. |
| (e) Mark 3:18 | () Lebbaeus' Father. |
| (f) Matthew 10:3 | () Simon, Former Member of Zealots. |

"These men made the commitment and paid the price. Why do I say that? Because I am about to introduce to you three men we don't know anything about. At least if we don't know anything else, we ought to know that they made the commitment, right? We are going to look at James, the son of Alphaeus, Lebbaeus, surnamed Thaddeaus, and Simon, the Zealot. The tendency is to figure them as second class, out of the way stragglers. When the fact is they had made the same commitment that Peter and everybody else made. They crossed the line in utter, total obedience to Christ."

Bill Santos

B. WE KNOW THAT THESE 3 DISCIPLES MADE EXACTLY THE SAME COMMITMENT AS DID PETER OR JOHN OR JAMES. WHAT DOES THAT COMMITMENT TELL US ABOUT THEM?

1. They Accepted the Call to Follow! – Luke 6:13

"And when it was day, He called His _____ to Himself; and from them He _____ twelve whom He also named _____." Luke 6:13 NKJV

2. They Forsook All! – Matthew 19:27

"Then Peter answered and said to Him, 'See, _____ have left _____ and _____ You. Therefore what shall we have?'" Matthew 19:27 NKJV

3. Jesus Qualified Them! - Matthew 10:1

"And when He had called His _____ disciples to Him, He _____ them _____ over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to _____ all kinds of sickness and all kinds of _____" Matthew 10:1 NKJV

4. They Were Commissioned! – Luke 9:2

“He _____ them to _____ the kingdom of _____ and to _____ the sick.” *Luke 9:2 NKJV*

5. They Were Co-labourers with Jesus! – Luke 8:1

“Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every _____ and village, _____ and bringing the glad _____ of the kingdom of God. And the _____ were with Him.” *Luke 8:1 NKJV*

6. They Were Representatives of Jesus! – Matthew 10:40

“He who receives _____ receives _____, and he who receives Me receives _____ who sent Me.” *Matthew 10:40 NKJV*

7. They Were a Support to Jesus! – Luke 22:28

“But _____ are those who have _____ with _____ in My _____.” *Luke 22:28 NKJV*

8. They Would Suffer for Christ! – Matthews 10:22

“And _____ will be _____ by all for My name’s _____. But he who endures to the end will be saved.” *Matthews 10:22 NKJV*

9. They Were His Confidants! – Matthew 20:17-18

“Now _____, going up to Jerusalem, took the _____ disciples aside on the road and said to _____, ‘Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be _____ to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to _____.’” *Matthew 20:17-18 NKJV*

10. They had Tremendous Responsibility in the Early Church! – Acts 6:2

“Then the _____ summoned the multitude of the _____ and said, ‘It is not desirable that _____ should leave the word of God and serve tables’.” *Acts 6:2 NKJV*

“Although without wealth, though counted by the world as mere ignorant fishermen, they were made, by the Holy Spirit, witnesses for Christ. Without earthly honour or recognition, they were the heroes of faith. From their lips came words of divine eloquence and power that shook the world.”

Ellen White, Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 67

C. WHAT PRIVILEGES WILL THESE 3 DISCIPLES RECEIVE ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHER DISCIPLES IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM? MATTHEW 19:28 AND REVELATION 21:14

“So Jesus said to them, ‘_____ I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the _____ of His glory, _____ who have followed Me will also sit on _____ thrones, _____ the twelve tribes of Israel’.” *Matthew 19:28*

“Now the _____ of the city had _____ foundations, and on them were the names of the _____ apostles of the Lamb.” *Revelation 21:14*

The reward will be the same for all the disciples. It will not matter if he was a Peter, the chief of the disciples or the zealous James or the intimate John or Thaddeus the unknown, there will be not favourites in God's Kingdom. In Heaven there will be but one group, those that dedicated their lives to the Gospel Commission and remained faithful until the end.

MAKING IT PERSONAL

A. MAYBE YOU, LIKE JAMES, THE SON OF ALPHAEUS, LEBBAEUS, AND SIMON THE ZEALOT ARE A DISCIPLE THAT FLIES BELOW THE RADAR GOING ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITIES UNNOTICED BY OTHERS. WHAT LESSONS CAN WE TAKE FOR OUR LIFE FROM THE QUOTATION BELOW?

“Fidelity to God has marked the heroes of faith from age to age. As they have been brought conspicuously before the world their light has shone forth. Their obedience to the command of Christ, “Go forward,” has led others to glorify God. There are today moral heroes, men and women who are living noble lives of self-denial. They have no ambition for worldly fame. Their will is subordinate to the will of God. The love of God inspires their ministry. To do good and to save souls is their highest aim.”

Ellen White, Reflecting Christ (1985), 346

B. HOW DANGEROUS IS IT TO SEEK FIRST THE APPROVAL OF MEN RATHER THAN THE APPROVAL OF GOD? PROVERBS 25:27 AND MATTHEW 16:26

“It is not good to eat _____ honey; So to _____ one’s _____ glory is not _____.” *Proverbs 25:27 NKJV*

“For what _____ is it to a _____ if he gains the whole _____, and loses his own _____? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” *Matthew 16:26*

“We are living in a time when even greater earnestness is needed than in the apostles’ day. But among many of the ministers of Christ there is a feeling of unrest, a desire to imitate the romantic style of modern revivalists, a desire to do something great, to create a sensation, to be accounted able speakers, and to gain for themselves honour and distinction. If such could encounter perils and receive the honour given to heroes, they would engage in the work with unflagging energy. But to live and labour almost unknown, to toil and sacrifice for Jesus in obscurity, receiving no special praise from men—this requires a soundness of principle and a steadfastness of purpose that but few possess. Were there a greater effort to walk humbly with God, looking away from men and labouring only for Christ’s sake, far more would be accomplished.”

Ellen White, Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, 132, 133

**C. WHAT PROMISE IS MADE TO ALL DISCIPLES BE THEY “RECOGNIZED” OR “UNKNOWN”?
PROVERBS 22:4 AND MATTHEWS 25:21**

“By _____ and the fear of the LORD Are _____ and _____ and _____.” *Proverbs 22:4 NKJV*

“His lord said to him, ‘ _____ done, _____ and _____ servant; you were faithful over a _____ things, I will make you _____ over many things. Enter into the _____ of your lord.” *Matthew 25:21 NKJV*

“God’s heroes of faith are heirs to an inheritance of greater value than any earthly riches,—an inheritance that will satisfy the longings of the soul. By the world they may be unknown and unacknowledged, but in the record books above they are enrolled as citizens of heaven, and an exalted greatness, an eternal weight of glory, will be theirs.”

Ellen White, Gospel Workers, 18

Seeking a Total commitment – Take assessment of your life and determine where you have been investing your time and your talents. What are your priorities? Have you been faithful to Jesus’ call to “Follow Me!”? Have you done your part to carry the Gospel message to those in your community? Pray for the power to commit totally as a disciple today.

Recognizing the “Unknown” – It is very likely that in your study group or in your church there are those members that would be classified as the “unknown” – they work quietly without any fanfare. Maybe it is the person who responsibly opens the church prior to every meeting, or maybe it is a teacher in the children’s department. Write a short note to that unknown disciple recognizing their commitment to God’s work and sharing with them how much you appreciate their efforts.

My Commitment

I commit to _____



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