



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - March 11, 2012

Sermon

"The Apostle Simon the Canaanite"

Matthew 10:4, Mark 3:18, & Luke 6:15

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember about this sermon...

Monday 3/12/12

Matthew 10:4

Matthew lists Simon in his list of apostles and includes the title, "the Canaanite." One would assume this means that Simon was born in Canaan, but this is incorrect. "Cananaean" is a transliteration of an Aramaic word and means "zealot" or "enthusiast." The zealots were a sect of the Jews who refused to pay tribute to the Romans because they thought it violated their belief in God as the only king of Israel. What are you passionate about?

Tuesday 3/13/12

Mark 3:18

In Mark's list of the apostles, he uses the more clear title for Simon: "the Zealot." We know from history that the zealots rebelled against the Romans but they were not very effective in their rebellion because they were scattered in many different directions and could not build a sizable force against the Romans. There is power in numbers. How can we Christians use our numbers to help spread the gospel today?

Wednesday 3/14/12

Luke 6:15

Luke also use the title, "the Zealot" when referring to Simon in his list of apostles. In fact, he records that Simon was referred to as "the zealot" among the disciples, suggesting perhaps that he was the only disciple who was a zealot. Knowing that Simon was a zealot reveals at least a little bit of of his personality and passion to us. We do not know much at all about Simon, but we do know he must have been passionate and willing to put his neck out for his belief. What do you believe? Is this belief strong enough for you to risk your neck for it? Thank God today for the religious freedoms we enjoy in our country.



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

What did I learn about Simon the Canaanite today?

What was Simon passionate about?

Do you think Simon was a faithful disciple? Why or why not?

Thursday 3/15/12
Acts 1:13

Simon the Zealot was with the other disciples in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost. His enthusiastic faith and passion for Jesus did not keep him away from the action that was starting to form the new, first church. In this scripture passage, we hear that they all had "one mind and gave themselves up to prayer, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." Have you ever thought about Jesus' family? What might it have been like to be his mother or brother?

Friday 3/16/12
Genesis 2:19 & John 4

Names are important. In the story of Creation, Adam is instructed by God to name every living creature. And so Adam gave names to all cattle, birds, and every beast in the field. God calls us by name and obviously knows our name. Some names are unknown in the biblical record. For example, we have a long story about a woman at the well in John 4, but we never are told her name. God knew her name. This week make it a point to learn someone's name that you don't already know.

Saturday 3/17/12
Revelation 2:10

Simon, like most of the apostles, was martyred for his Christian beliefs and actions. One tradition indicates that Simon was sawn in half and much of the artwork depicting Simon has him holding a saw as a symbol of his agonizing demise. This verse in revelation offers a promise for all those who remain faithful, even faithful to the death. Talk about commitment! Where is our commitment? How committed are we in serving the Lord? Are we only committed when we have the time or inclination to serve? Or are we willing to be more like Simon who was willing to serve to the very end?