



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - March 18, 2012

Sermon

“The Apostles James, the son of Alphas, and James, the other son of Thunder”

Luke 2:1-20

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember about this sermon...

Monday 3/19/12

Matthew 10:2-3

Both James are mentioned in Matthew’s list of the disciples. First, James, the son of Zebedee. All we know from this list is that he is mentioned 3rd, he is the brother of John, and his father is Zebedee. That’s not much information, but it’s a start. We know a little about his family, which is more than we can for some of the more obscure disciples. Why do you think Matthew mentions the family relations of James?

Tuesday 3/20/12

Mark 3:17

In Mark’s list of the disciples, he mentions James the son of Zebedee, but also mentions that Jesus gave him the name “Boanerges, which means son of thunder. Apparently, it was the aggressive tempers of these two brothers that initiated this nickname. Do you have a temper or perhaps another personality trait that gets you into trouble? How can you better control your temper?

Wednesday 3/21/12

Mark 5:37-43

James was with Jesus when a child was raised from the dead by Jesus. He saw everything, from the commotion of the mourners to the amazement of the child’s mother as her daughter was brought back to life. Amazing! A witness to a miracle! Have you ever witnessed a miracle or some amazing act of God? What did you think? How did you feel? How do you think James felt when he saw these events unfolding right in front of him? Do you think he told anybody or did he keep this to himself? What about you? Do you keep the miracles you witness to yourself or are you willing to share the incredible and amazing miracles of Jesus with others?



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

How are these two disciples different? How are they the same?

Why was James called the Lesser? How do you think that made him feel?

Why was the other James called the son of Thunder?

Thursday 3/22/12
Galatians 1:18-19

This story in the book of Galatians refers to yet another James, the brother of Jesus. He was not one of the original twelve disciples, yet he did some amazing things, too. And is referred to as one of the apostles. Remember, the true definition of an apostle is an eye-witness of Jesus. Obviously, this James was an eye-witness to many things of Jesus. What do you think it was like to be the brother of Jesus? Would it be difficult? Would you have liked to be a brother of Jesus?

Friday 3/23/12
Acts 12:1-2

James, the son of Zebedee, was the first apostle to be martyred. As most of the apostles experienced; their preaching, teaching, and beliefs got them into trouble with the authorities. Most all of them died an awful and often painfully, agonizing death. James died by the sword of King Herod, who made some brutal attacks on the Christians. We are fortunate in this country because we enjoy religious freedom and worship whenever and however we choose. Today, give thanks to God for the religious freedoms we enjoy in this country.

Saturday 3/24/12
Mark 15:40

In this verse we hear a little more about the family of James the less. His mother's name was Mary. This was not Mary, the mother of Jesus, because she was close to Jesus. This was Mary the mother of James and John, who witnessed the crucifixion from a distance. But she was there to see all that was happening that Good Friday. What have you seen? What have you witnessed? Are you willing to tell someone about what you saw and experienced? Share your experiences with someone today!