

## Chapter Four: the Apostle of Passion

*Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. - Acts 12:1-2*

- I. The Gospels are surprisingly \_\_\_\_\_ about James. This is ironic for a few reasons.
  - a. He was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Zebedee brothers.
  - b. The Zebedee family seems to have been more \_\_\_\_\_ than the Jonas family.
  - c. In the lists of the apostles, James is always mentioned right after \_\_\_\_\_.
- II. However, James does figure prominently in the close inner \_\_\_\_\_ of the three. Together they were privileged to witness some amazing things.
  - a. They saw Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ in the raising of Jairus's daughter from the dead (Mark 5:37).
  - b. They saw His \_\_\_\_\_ on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1).
  - c. They (along with Andrew) saw His \_\_\_\_\_ when He foretold the future on the Mount of Olives (Mark 13:3).
  - d. They saw the Savior's \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden of Gethsemane when He asked them to watch and pray with Him.
- III. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in James' personality are clearly seen in his desire to call down fire from heaven on the Samaritans.
  - a. Jesus had nicknamed the sons of Zebedee, *Boanerges*, which means "Sons of \_\_\_\_\_."
  - b. We get our best glimpse of why James and John were called this in Luke 9:51-56.
  - c. It was significant that Jesus chose to travel through \_\_\_\_\_ at all.
  - d. In Jesus day, the Samaritans still \_\_\_\_\_ to worship Jehovah as God, but in essence they made a new religion based in large part on pagan \_\_\_\_\_.

- e. Since the party traveling with Jesus was fairly \_\_\_\_\_ He sent messengers ahead to arrange \_\_\_\_\_.
  - f. The Samaritans summarily \_\_\_\_\_ the request.
  - g. James and John, the Sons of Thunder were instantly filled with passionate \_\_\_\_\_.
  - h. The reference to \_\_\_\_\_ is significant.
  - i. Jesus was not by any means \_\_\_\_\_ what Elijah had done in his day.
  - j. However, Jesus taught James and John by His \_\_\_\_\_ in this situation that loving-kindness and \_\_\_\_\_ are virtues to be cultivated as much as (and sometimes more than) righteous indignation and fiery zeal.
- IV. In the account of asking for thrones in the Kingdom, we see that James was also \_\_\_\_\_ and overconfident.
- a. We read about this in Matthew 20:20-28.
  - b. By comparing this with the parallel passage in Mark 10:35-45, it is clear that James and John were the ones \_\_\_\_\_ for this request.
  - c. Jesus reply subtly reminded them that \_\_\_\_\_ is the prelude to glory.
  - d. James wanted a crown of glory; Jesus gave him a cup of \_\_\_\_\_. He wanted power; Jesus gave him \_\_\_\_\_. He wanted to rule; Jesus gave him a \_\_\_\_\_ - not to wield, but to be the instrument of his own \_\_\_\_\_. Fourteen year after this, James would become the first of the Twelve to be killed for his faith.

Did James learn the lesson Jesus tried to teach him?

History records that James's testimony bore fruit right up until the moment of his execution. Eusebius, the early church historian, passes on an account of James's death that came from Clement of Alexandria: "[Clement] says that the one who led James to the judgment-seat, when he saw him bearing his testimony, was moved, and confessed that he was himself also a Christian. They were both therefore, he says, led away together; and on the way he begged James to forgive him. And James, after considering a little, said, 'Peace be with thee,' and kissed him. And thus they were both beheaded at the same time." Thus in the end, James had learned to be more like Andrew, bringing people to Christ instead of itching to execute judgment.