

## James

- Family
  - Son of Zebedee, brother of John
    - Family of fishermen – Mt. 4:21-22
  - Wife of Zebedee likely named Salome, sister to Mary:
    - Mt. 27:56 – Magdalene, Mary mother of James and Joses, and mother of Zebedee’s sons
    - Mk. 15:40 – Magdalene, Mary mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome
    - Jn. 19:25 – Jesus’ mother, her sister, Mary wife of Clopas, and Magdalene
    - If sister to Mary, adds insight to her request in Mt. 20:20-21
- Discipleship
  - Left family and family business to follow Jesus immediately – Mt. 4:18-22
  - James and John likely disciples of John first – Jn. 1:40
- Sons of Thunder – Mk. 3:17
  - Past: Indicative of hot-tempered men who acted impulsively? Fiery disposition?
  - Future: Eloquent, thundering voices useful in teaching gospel? Heb 12:26
  - James must have been a great deal of passion and zeal for the Lord
    - Samaritan village didn’t receive them – Lk. 9:51-56
      - Ready to command fire from heaven to destroy them
      - Error is best overcome with truth, spoken in love
- Ambition
  - Mt. 19:28 – Disciples sit on 12 thrones
  - Mt. 20:20-28 – James and John desired to sit next to Jesus
    - Jesus did not rebuke selfish request
    - No idea what you are asking
    - To have this honor, their endurance and faith would be tested; loyal to death.
- Prominence
  - Part of inner circle of disciples
    - Mk. 5:37 – Saw Jesus raise Jairus’ daughter from dead
    - Mt. 17 – Witnessed transfiguration
    - Mk. 14:33, 40-41 – Went to Gethsemane with Jesus to pray
  - Killed by Herod; First apostle to be martyred – Acts 12:1-2
    - Sounds as if he targeted one of, if not the primary, leader of the church at Jerusalem
- Interesting thought
  - Acts 4 – after Peter & John are arrested and released...
  - Acts 4:23-31 – Someone led this prayer. Could it have been James?
    - Evidence of deep zeal and love for Lord
    - Shows dissatisfaction with political leaders, yet patience and peace to them
    - Place was “shaken” after prayer finished
- James matured in His faith and service to Jesus, giving all to Him.
  - Learned what true service was
  - As Acts does not focus on him, seems to have grown content with whatever role he had