

As a warmup for this study, answer the following questions as best you can.

Who are the Nethinims (King James Version) of the Old Testament? _____

What was the name of Abraham's servant who found a bride for Isaac? _____

What were the names of the Three Wise Men? _____

What 's the name of the boy who gave his lunch to feed the multitude? _____

When you were a child and going to Sunday School, who ordered the curriculum? _____

Our study tonight will focus on two men who were chosen by Jesus to be apostles. Who carried all the authority of apostleship with them and are just as important as the others. But the Biblical narrative did not follow them as it did others. There is no record in the Bible of anything James, the less said. As far as Judas (not Iscariot) the Bible records just one question that he asked. They are not forgotten, their deeds are just unknown here on earth.

1. Judas- (not Iscariot)

Matthew and Mark refer to him as Labbaeus (Matt 10:3) and Thaddaeus. (Mark 3:18). Little is known of his family. The KJV refers to him as the brother of James, some translations say he is the son of James. Some believe he was the brother of Jesus and although Jesus did have a brother named Judas, this could not have been him for Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him till after the resurrection. (John 7:5).

Judas' Question. John 14:15-26

Judas is inquiring of Jesus especially concerning verse 19. Jesus made the statement that the world would no longer see Him. Judas is asking basically why not? Of course, he doesn't understand the plan of God completely concerning the future, The answer Jesus gives is that He would send the Advocate to remind them of everything Jesus taught them. The implication being that they would be responsible to reveal Jesus to the world and the Holy Spirit would empower them to carry out that task.

We are all called to do this with the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 3:15-17. We are to always be ready to share our faith in Jesus. We are to be the light of the world. I guess the question is do you model hope to the people God brings your way? It will be seen in big and small ways.

What are some ways we can routinely model hope to others?

Tradition says the Judas the less preached in Edessa near the Euphrates river and cofounded the church in Armenia. It is thought that he travelled to Kurdistan were he was killed by arrows.

2. James the less.

Even less of James the less is revealed as compared to Judas (not Iscariot) He is designated as less not because he wasn't as important as the other James. It could mean that he was small in stature or it could mean he was younger than the other James. Many believe it is just a designation that compared to the other James he held less influence. Not less important, just a different role to fulfill in the plan of God.

There are three significant men named James in the New Testament. This James (the less), James the brother of John, and James the brother of Jesus (Head of the Jerusalem church).

Nothing is known about his ministry life after Jesus ascended to heaven. Tradition states that he was persecuted by being stoned, but survived. Later he was sawed into pieces for his witness of Christ.

The Importance of the Small.

The Widows Mite Luke 21:1-4 _____

The Mustard Seed. Matt. 13:31,32, Matt. 17:20 _____

The days of small things: Zechariah 4:9-11 _____

Epilogue.

Judas (not Iscariot) and James the Less will have their names written on the foundation of the New Jerusalem. I speculate that their names will not have the tags present in the Bible. The story of the Bible did not follow them, but God did and their faithfulness will be remembered by God.

The same is true for us. The Lord goes with us in big and small things.

What is most important is that we are faithful in what God has given to us.

1 Timothy 5:24-25 _____

Hebrews 6:10 _____

Luke 16:10-12 _____