

# The Had Been With Jesus - The Sons of Thunder -

Luke – the Acts of Jesus

Luke 6:14c

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They Had Been With Jesus

The Sons of Thunder, pt 1 of 2

# **JAMES, A SON OF ZEBEDEE**

# Introduction of James

- An Affluent Beginning
  - James & John Background
- A Leader Among the Disciples
- Taken from Elijah's mold
  - Fire from Heaven
- The Up-and-Comer
  - Thrones next to Jesus???
- Drinking from the Cup of Jesus' Suffering
  - First Apostle to be Martyred
- His Influence

# An Affluent Beginning

- Sons of a prominent and prosperous fisherman – Mk 1:20
  - Sons of Zebedee – cited *six* times
    - Mt 20:20; 26:37; 27:56; Mk 10:35; Lk 5:10; Jn 21:2
- Partners with Simon (Peter) – Lk 5:10
- Family – known to the High Priest – Jn 18:15*f.*
- James, Elder brother

# A Leader Among the Disciples

- Leader 1A of the disciples
  - Peter, James and John (oh...and Andrew too)
    - Mk 3:16-19; Ac 1:13
  - Mother was one of the prominent women who followed and supported Jesus' ministry.
    - Mt 27:56; Mk 15:40
- Witness to Jesus' power, glory, sovereignty & agony
  - In the "3" who saw Jairus' daughter raised from the dead – Mk 5:37
    - Also, witnessed the healing of Peter's mother – Mk 1:29
  - In the "3" who witnessed Jesus' glory – Mt 17:1
  - In the "4" who questioned Jesus privately – Mk 13:3
  - In the "3" whom Jesus asked to pray & watch – Mk 14:33

# Taken from Elijah's Mold

- Βοανηργες, from Aramaic, *ben regesh*, Sons of Thunder
  - Passionate, zealous, fervent
  - Filled with Zeal for Jesus
- When the Samaritans turned Jesus out, James wanted to call down fire from heaven. Lk 9:54; cf., 2 Ki 1:1-16
  - Jesus' rebuke, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."
  - The fire was a display of God's wrath, not the wrath of Elijah.
  - God does not delight in the death of the wicked, but desires that the wicked repent and live. Ez 33:11

# An Up-and-Comer

- James was ambitious – Mt 20:20-24
  - J & J apparently asked their Mom to request the highest appointment for her sons. Cf. Mk 10:35-45
  - Jesus asked if they were willing to be identified with and included in His suffering...they were.
  - Jesus had not authority over appointments.
- Their self-promotion created a continuing conflict among the disciples – Lk 22:24

# A Difference of Wills

## **James Wanted...**

- Glory
- Power
- Place of Prominence
- To Rule

## **Jesus Gave Him...**

- Suffering
- Servanthood
- Martyr's Grave
- Execution by the Ruler



# Drinking from the Cup of Suffering

- Beheaded by Herod Agrippa I
  - Herod the Great – sought to kill Jesus
  - Herod Antipas – beheaded John the Baptist & put Jesus on trial
    - Son of Herod the Great, born 20 BC, became King of Galilee in 4 BC
  - Herod Agrippa I put James to the sword
    - Nephew and Successor of Herod Antipas, born 10 BC, became King of Judea and Samaria
- James' passion for Christ must have gotten Herod's attention and raised his ire:
  - Herod desired to put an end to the whole Jesus Affair – Ac 4:27
    - Upon pleasing the Jewish leaders, also targeted Peter – Ac 12:1-19

# His Influence – Clement’s Account

- Eusebius relates Clement of Alexandria’s testimony:
  - “[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.” Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical Church History*, V. 2.9.2-3
- He had learned to be one who brought people to Christ, rather than one who brought fire to the people.