**Twelve – Wk 7 – James, Jude, & Simon – The Lesser known**

**We are walking in the disciples' footsteps…**

**Luke 6:12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. 13 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: 14 Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, 15 and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, 16 and Judas the son (brother) of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.**

**They were not the most gifted or qualified, but God took these ordinary people and did extraordinary things.**

**THE TWELVE: All four gospels and Acts list the twelve.**

**The lists are slightly varied as nicknames and surnames were used.**

**1. Simon (Peter) - Son of Jonah / 2. Andrew (Simon's brother)**

**3. James - Son of Zebedee / 4. John (James’s brother)**

**5. Philip / 6. Bartholomew (Nathanael)**

**7. Matthew (Levi) / 8. Thomas (Didymus = the twin . Judas)**

**9. James / 10. Jude (Judas/Judah/Thaddeus Labbaeus)**

**11. Simon (the Zealot) / 12. Judas Iscariot (the traitor)**

**They were called disciples and would become Apostles.**

**\*\* Today, three debated disciples for reasons you might not think.**

**There is not much about them, but they too were called Apostles.**

**So far, we found out - Simon, Peter, and Andrew are brothers.**

**James and John are brothers – and 1st cousins to Jesus.**

**Today - Possible brothers and possible additional family of Jesus.**

**James, Jude, & Simon**

**This has been a hot topic for 2000 years – what exactly is their relationship to Jesus? This is important because it provides insight into the very first followers and the apostles of Jesus.**

**What we know (from the Gospels) – Get ready for a roller coaster…**

**JAMES**

* **Called James the Less (younger than the other James or short)**
* **He is James, the son of Alpheus**
* **His mother is Mary (Mk 15:40; 47, 16:1, Matt 27:56)** 
  + **She is called the sister of Mary (Jo 19:25)**
  + **He has a brother, Joseph (Mk 15:40; 47, Matt 27:56)**
  + **His mother was at the cross and resurrection tomb.**
* **His mother Mary would have made him at least a cousin of Jesus.**

**JUDAS - Judas/Judah/Jude/Thaddeus Labbaeus**

* **Man w/5 names - Matt 10:3; Ma 3:18, Lu 6:16, Jo 14:22, Acts 1:13**
* **Translations use both “brother of James” and “son of James.”**
* **Thaddeus/Labbaeus (Matthew nickname) heart child = tender hearted**

**SIMON the Zealot**

* **Possibly a political zealot and radical before following Christ.**

**Matthew 10:4, Mark 3:18, Luke 6:15, Acts 1:13**

* **Committed to overthrowing the Rome – terrorists / militant for God**
* **As a zealot, he would have been outspoken, fiery, and opinionated.**

**Hidden in plain sight**

**Who is this Alphaeus guy?**

**"James the son of Alphaeus" (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15)**

* **Most conclude "Alphaeus" (Grk) and "Clopas/Cleopas" (Aramaic) are the same person – as variations of the same name “Chalphi.”**
* **He is the husband of a Mary at the cross and resurrection (Jo 19:25)**
* **He is the father of sons James and Joseph (Matt 27:56, Mark 15:40)**
* **As the father of James, Jude is also his son.**
* **Nearly all early church writers record he is the father of Simon Z.**
* **Many 1st century early church writers record he is the brother of Jospeh (husband of Mary, mother of Jesus).**
* **This would make - James, Jude, and Simon cousins of Jesus.**

**\*\* The Children of Mary, Mother of Jesus**

**James, Joseph, Jude, and Simon**

**(Galatians 1:19, 1 Corinthians 9:5, Matt 13:55-56) Mark 6:3 - Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses *(Joseph)* and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.**

**Jesus had at least 6 siblings – 4 brothers and at least 2 sisters.**

**\*\* The Children of Mary, wife to Clopas/Alpheus (brother of Jospeh)**

**James, Joseph (historically referred to as stepmother to Jude & Simon)**

**Matthew 27:56, Mark 15:40, 15:47, 16:1, Luke 24:10, Jude 1:1**

**\*\* This led many early church fathers to speculate that Mary, mother of James, is the same person as Mary, Mother of Jesus (Ie. Cross versions mention Mary, mother of James, but not Mary, the mother of Jesus at the cross)**

**Making them possibly simultaneously cousins (sons of Joseph’s brother Clophas) and half-brothers (sons of Mary)**

**Flow chart**

**SO: Mary, wife of Clopas, is sister-in-law to Mary, mother of Jesus**

**– OR – Mary and Mary are the same person. (Deuteronomy 25:5–10)**

**Today, the topic remains a subject of debate in forums and among scholars. You will find different opinions on every website. What does it mean for us?**

**If they are cousins or brothers, it gives insight into other passages:**

* **Explains why Jesus' family was all at the Cana wedding (Jo 2:1-12)**

**Early Christian writings suggest Simon Z was the groom, explaining why JC family was there and Mary the coordinator.**

* **Explains why Mary of Clopas was at the cross and the tomb**

**(John 19:25, Matt 27:56, Ma 15:47, Mark 16:1. Matt 28:1, Lu 24:10)**

* **Explains why Clopas had a special day with Jesus after the resurrection on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)**
  + **Some scholars even suggest that the unnamed disciple was either his wife, Mary, or his son, Simon.**

**If they are cousins or brothers, it explains the so-called silence:**

**Mark 3:31-35, Matthew 12:46-50, Luke 8:19-21, John 7:1-10, Acts 1:12-14,**

* **They were not silent, as James, Jude, and Simon, the brothers of Jesus, are spoken of often and later became bishops of Jerusalem.**
* **This would also make them the authors of James and Jude**

**\*\*\* But at the end of the day, we do not know for sure.**

**The Gospels were written nearly 2,000 years ago, and the authors focused on the teachings of Jesus, the divinity of Jesus, and the events surrounding the Cross and Resurrection.**

**Written to people who already knew much about Jesus' life, and details of the disciples and family are said in passing.**

**At best, they are cousins. We don’t know much beyond that, so let's unpack what we can learn from James the Less, Jude, and Simon.**

**1. Likes do not translate to impact**

**The lack of information about James, Jude, and Simon is a lesson in itself. They are just as much an apostle as the others.**

* **They walked with Jesus and were trained by Jesus.**
* **They cast demons out, healed the sick, and performed miracles.**
* **They took the gospel to the unreached.**
* **They, too, faced persecution and death for Jesus.**
* **Yet they never sought recognition.**

**The unnamed prophets – like the quite apostles… Hebrews 11:32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection. (Like the prophets and judges – the disciples saw and did great things! But also…) Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two,[a] they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— 38 of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.**

**2 Corinthians 11:16-33 – The Apostle Paul's list of surfing included near-death beatings, stonings, desertions, and lack of clothing and food.**

**Luke 18:28 Peter said, “See, we have left our homes and followed you.”**

**To follow Jesus is not necessarily to find fame and fortune as we prepare the way of the kingdom for others. It might mean rejection and human loneliness. But – God will never leave us! \*\* Romans 8:31-39!**

**Though not much is written about them - Ephesians 2:20 - They too are the foundation of the church, Christ being the chief cornerstone**

**Matthew 19:28 - They, too, will sit on a throne in Jesus’ earthly kingdom with as much authority and honor as the other apostles.**

**Revelation 21:14 - Their names will also be engraved in a foundation of the walls of the New Jerusalem.**

**James “the less” and the others will not be considered “less” in eternity because they were faithful to their calling on earth.**

**So many spend their lives for “likes” and “follows.” They strive to be famous and celebrities. But to serve Jesus, as we learned with the other disciples, does not mean fame and fortune.**

**The gospels are never about the Jesus disciples and brothers – it is about Jesus! Their weaknesses and growth are lessons for us to learn about God’s faithfulness to us.**

**2. God honors faithfulness, endurance, obedience, and sacrifice**

**(Luke 18:8, Matt 24:13, 7:21, Galatians 2:20)**

**Jude's conversation with Jesus - John 14:18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. (I am about to die – but you will see me again and your will understand everything!)**

**21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” (Jude’s tenderheartedness)**

**Knowing the goodness of Jesus, why would you treat people differently around the world? And why show yourself only to us?**

**23 Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. (This is for anyone who will follow me)**

* **The evidence of loving Jesus is obedience.**

**Love of God and obedience to God are inseparable (v.21,23)**

**True children of God seek to love, honor, and obey the Father.**

**John repeats this in - 1 John 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. (2 John 1:6)**

* **Obey and walk in what you know, and you will be given more understanding (v.21)**

**If you are struggling to understand God, are you obeying what you know? We often seek more before we live what we know.**

* **The Holy Spirit in us drives us to a deeper love for Jesus, and as a byproduct, we walk in greater obedience (v.21)**

**Jesus starts by saying - John 14:15 - If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And then says the HS is coming to help you. Then circles back to if you love me, you will obey me. The HS is the key.**

**When we, out of love for Jesus, are faithful, endure, and obey – He reveals himself to us more and more.**

**3. Jesus transcends politics**

**Simon was a political zealot and radical before following Christ. He was committed to overthrowing the Roman government, started riots, filled w/ hate.**

**Matthew, a tax collector (disciple) – considered a far-left traitor of the Jews, and Simon, a far-right zealot and radical hater of Rome – became friends and co-laborers in Christ.**

**God can take people from different points of view - to work, walk, and serve side by side in the cause of the Kingdom.**

**How? They both left their kingdom to follow THE Kingdom.**

**This only happens when we understand the higher kingdom we serve.**

**Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ…**

**Ephesians 2:19 - Therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of God’s household,**

**Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.**

**We have got to keep our eyes on the greater kingdom – while we are here, we are to serve others to bring the kingdom to earth through our lives – knowing *The Kingdom* is still to come.**

**4. We must know Jesus for ourselves and follow him independently of our family and friends' choices.**

**If they were all related to Jesus (at least cousins). We must understand that being family does not make one right w/ God.**

**John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood (by the will of the family) nor of the will of the flesh (human will decision) nor of the will of man, (husband will – by marriage) but of God. (the will of God)**

**We all have to come to grips with the truth by God’s grace.**

**(Luke 12:49-53) A very hard passage - Matthew 10:34 “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. (a piercing the heart) 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**

**I am drawn to John 6, where Jesus feeds the 5000 and then teaches that he is the bread of life. John 6:41 So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” 42 They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” 43 Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. (not even his earthly family and friends) And I will raise him up on the last day.**

**He goes on to say that you must eat of this new manna (himself) - 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” (You must consume me – not just a taste or a dip – or part of me - all of me)**

**People started getting confused & offended - 66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” 68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” .**

**Where else are we going to go? You are all that matters. You are God almighty in the flesh! We gave up everything. We choose you.**

**What happened to them?**

**James the son of Alpheus**

* **Recorded that he went to Syria and later returned to Jerusalem.**
* **If he is the same brother/cousin, he played an important role in Jerusalem (Acts 15, Acts 21:18, Galatians 2:9)**
* **And - if he was the half-brother/cousin of Jesus, as some in the early church speculated, then he is the author of James.**
* **Arrested for preaching Jesus as Lord in Jerusalem and was stoned / beaten to death after surviving being thrown from temple. (AD 62)**

**Judas, brother of James**

* **Preached in Armenia (south Russia) with Nathanial and Thomas.**
* **He joined his brother Simon in Persia (Iran)**
* **Iran (AD 65) he and his brother were attacked by an angry mob, he was clubbed to death and his head was then shattered with an ax.**
* **If he was the half-brother/cousin of Jesus, as the early church speculated, then he is the author of Jude (a warning of wolves).**

**Simon the Zealot**

* **If the bro/cousin – he is recorded as serving as the bishop of Jerusalem after James, his brother, died.**
* **He then went to Africa, Spain, and Britain.**
* **Meeting up occasionally with Jude in Armenia and Persia.**
* **He suffered martyrdom his brother - sawed in half in Persia (AD 65)** 
  + **Some say he was crucified in Britain**

**\*BTW - you might wonder what happened to 4th brother, Joseph? Some suggest he was the unpicked apostle of Acts 1 (Jospeh Barsabbas) who went on to spread the gospel and was martyred.**

**If they were indeed the brothers of Jesus, letters bear their name.**

**If they are not, the Bible is relatively silent. But history is not as they risked their lives to take the gospel of Jesus to the ends of the earth.**

**We are here today on the shoulders of James, Jude, and Simon – the silent Apostles. They were not celebrities.**

**At the end of the day – at the end of life – it’s just you and Jesus.**

**What will you do? Will you follow Jesus as an unknown?**

**\*\* Voice of the Martyrs**

**Serving Persecuted Christians Since 1967 | The Voice of the Martyrs**

**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9a4JI5PvCk**

**Matthew 5:11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

**Exposition of the Sayings of the Lord of the Apostolic Father Papias of Hierapolis, who lived circa 70–163 AD, "Mary the wife of Cleophas or Alphaeus" would be the mother of James the Just, Simon, Judas (identified as Jude the Apostle), and Joseph (Joses).**

**The 2nd-century historian Hegesippus states that Clopas was a brother of Joseph, Mary's husband and stepfather of Jesus. If true, then this apostle James was a cousin / and half-brother of Jesus.**

**Eastern Orthodox and Protestant Christian tradition, as well as most modern scholars take James Brother of Jesus and James Son of Alphaeus to be different people. On the other hand, St. Jerome believed them to be the same and this view is generally supported in Roman Catholic circles.**

**The**[**Catholic tradition**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacred_tradition)**holds that this James is to be identified with**[**James, son of Alphaeus**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James,_son_of_Alphaeus)**, and**[**James the Less**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_the_Less)**.**[**[14]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James,_brother_of_Jesus#cite_note-NewAdvent-17)**It is agreed by most that he should not be confused with James, son of Zebedee also known as**[**James the Great**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_the_Great)**.**[**[1]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James,_brother_of_Jesus#cite_note-Britanicca-1)

[**Eusebius**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eusebius)**records that**[**Clement of Alexandria**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clement_of_Alexandria)**related, "This James, whom the people of old called the Just because of his outstanding virtue, was the first, as the record tells us, to be elected to the episcopal throne of the Jerusalem church."**[**[15]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James,_brother_of_Jesus#cite_note-18)[**[16]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James,_brother_of_Jesus#cite_note-19)[**[17]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James,_brother_of_Jesus#cite_note-20)**Other epithets are "James the brother of the Lord, surnamed the Just,"**[**[18]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James,_brother_of_Jesus#cite_note-schaff-21)**and "James the Righteous".**

**Fragment X of**[**Papias**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papias_of_Hierapolis)**(writing in the second century) refers to "James the bishop and apostle".**[**[51]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James,_brother_of_Jesus#cite_note-papias-56) **"**[**Mary the wife of Cleophas**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_of_Clopas)**or Alphaeus" would be the mother of**[**James the Just**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_the_Just)**,**[**Simon**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon,_brother_of_Jesus)**,**[**Judas**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jude_(brother_of_Jesus))**(identified as**[**Jude the Apostle**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jude_the_Apostle)**), and**[**Joseph (Joses)**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joses)**.**

[**Hegesippus**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hegesippus_(chronicler))**(2nd century) - "After the apostles, James the brother of the Lord surnamed the Just was made head of the Church at Jerusalem."**[**[18]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James,_brother_of_Jesus#cite_note-schaff-21)

[**Clement of Alexandria**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clement_of_Alexandria)**(late 2nd century)  - calls James one of the Apostles**

[**Jerome**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerome) **(4th century) states that James the less, the Lord's brother, was an apostle – the son of Alphaeus (Clopas) – one of the twelve.**

**Eusebius (4th century) – James the Apostle and Brother of the Lord**

[**Josephus**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josephus)**describes James as "the brother of Jesus who is called Christ".**

[**Hippolytus**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hippolytus_of_Rome)**, *On the Twelve Apostles of Christ* and *On the***[***Seventy Apostles***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventy_Apostles)***of Christ,* he relates - James the son of Alphaeus, as Jesus brother who when preaching in Jerusalem was stoned to death by the Jews, and was buried there beside the temple.**

**Jude – early Christian history refers to him as Jude, the bother of Jesus.**

**The epistle of Jude is usually attributed to Jude the apostle, and Jude refers to himself as the brother of James.**

**For more research –** [**https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Brothers-Jesus**](https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Brothers-Jesus)

**Judas – 6:60-71**