

James

Ambitious Man Who Gave Up All for Christ

“James was miraculously and marvelously _____ from a man who thought only of himself and his family into a dynamic and steadfast Christian who was willing to _____ his life for the One who gave His life for him.”

“And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. ²²And they _____ left the ship and their father, and followed him.” Matthew 4:21-22

I. Background of James

A. He was from a _____ family in Galilee.

1. First born in the family
2. Father was _____ - mentioned with his son’s names
3. Mother was _____ - _____ to Christ
4. Family owned a _____ business.

B. James _____ immediately Jesus’ call. Matthew 4:21-22

C. James became part of Jesus’ three specially selected disciples known as the _____.

D. Christ called him and John “the sons of _____” Mark 3:17

E. James is never mentioned alone—even in death Acts 12:2

II. Changes to James

“And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, ⁵²And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.⁵³And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that _____ command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elijah did? ⁵⁵ But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. ⁵⁶ For the Son of man is not come to _____ men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.” Luke 9:51-56

A. Personality seems to be one of _____ and aggression.

1. Inner-circle incidents that James allowed to encourage these _____.

- Healing of Jairus' daughter Mark 5:22-23; 35-37
- Mount of Transfiguration Luke 9:28-36
- Garden of Gethsemane Matthew 26:36-43

2. _____ of the Samaritans Luke 9:51-56

3. James & John and their _____ asks for prominent _____
Matthew 20:20-24; Mark 10:35-41

“Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he _____ James the brother of John with the sword.” Acts 12:1-2

James changed from ambitious and seeking prominence to the first _____.

B. After Pentecost the _____ demonstrated boldness and singleness of heart.

1. Growth of Persecution in _____

2. James is the only apostle whose death is _____.

“Then came to him the _____ of Zebedee’s children _____ her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. ²¹And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. ²² But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, _____ are able. ²³And he saith unto them, Ye _____ drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to

them for whom it is prepared of my Father. ²⁴And when the ten heard it, they were moved with _____ against the two brethren.” Matthew 20:20-24

III. Lessons from James’ life

A. “No matter what our family background, Jesus Christ can mold our lives into His _____.”

B. God is looking for dedicated servants who are willing to be _____ in the limelight and behind the scenes.

“Jesus did not choose spiritually and emotionally mature men to enroll in His training program... He looked for strong personalities that He would mold and shape into His image.”

All italicized quotes are from Gene A. Getz’s book
The Apostles, Becoming Unified Through Diversity