

=THE APOSTLES=

Lesson 5

The Apostle James (Major)

AIM: to teach my pupils about the Apostle James.

POINT OF CONTACT: James was the quiet type. Ask the pupils to discuss with you some people who are quiet whom they admire very much. Ask the pupils to discuss why some people are quiet.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:16-20.

I. THE LIFE OF JAMES.

1. He was born near the Sea of Galilee.
2. His father was Zebedee, and his mother was Salome. She was a sister of Mary.
3. He was an older brother of John. Could it be that the pattern of an older brother was a help to John? (Teacher, it might be wise here to discuss with the pupils the importance of their lives and influence on younger children. Discuss how a younger brother looks up to an older brother and how important it is for an older child to set an example for the younger child. This is not only true with brothers, but with any children. Try to remember how you used to look up to the grade ahead of you in school. A Beginner thinks a Primary is aged. A Primary looks up to a Junior as being an old person. A person in elementary school thinks high schoolers are ancient. Explain how important it is that each of us watch his influence over younger people.)
4. He was in the fishing business. He had close ties with John.
5. In 28 A.D. he left all for Jesus. Discuss the importance of leaving all for Christ, and discuss people in the Bible who left all for Christ. Abraham did, John did, Peter and Andrew did, Matthew did. Discuss the importance of leaving all for Christ.
6. He was chosen to be an apostle.
7. After Zebedee died, Salome was saved. No doubt James had an important part in winning his mother to Jesus Christ. Discuss here the importance of winning relatives to Christ. Ask the pupils if they have any lost loved ones. You might even spend a few moments in prayer for the lost loved ones. Also discuss with the class the best way to win your loved ones.
8. He saw the Transfiguration.
9. He was in Gethsemane.
10. He was in the upper room.
11. It is said that in the Passover season he was martyred by Agrippa in 44 A.D. In every case we have found that the apostles have been martyred for the Lord Jesus Christ. Discuss for a few minutes with the class having the right devotion for God and even being willing to die for Him.

II. HIS MISTAKES. James made a number of mistakes in the Bible; at least two of these are recorded in length. Perhaps the best known of these mistakes is the one that he made with John in asking for the seats to the right and left of Christ in the Kingdom. This no doubt was not a selfish mistake but was a foolish one. No doubt Jesus was talking about the Kingdom. James and John thought that would be a good time to ask for the best seats. They figured maybe a woman would have more influence on Jesus than they would, so they sent their mother, Salome, to ask for the special privilege. It is very important that we realize that the way up is down in the Christian life, that the way to go forward is to go backward, that the way to be the greatest is to be the least, and that to be master is to be servant of all. Talk to the class for a while about the importance of serving. It is not the one that gets the most attention who is the best Christian; it is the one who serves the most and serves the best.

III. HIS POSITION.

1. He was of the inner circle with Jesus and Peter and John. Jesus chose twelve, and then He chose three out of the twelve to go with Him on special occasions. How close are you to Jesus? Jesus could depend on James more than He could depend on most of the other disciples; hence, James was in the inner circle.

2. When Jairus' daughter was raised, James was there with Peter and John and Jesus. Jesus left the crowd and took the twelve. Then He left the twelve and took the three. We, too, should go all the way with Jesus Christ and yield completely to Him so as to be dependable enough to be in the inner circle. Because James was in the inner circle, he got to see miracles that others did not get to see. God has special miracles for those on whom He can depend and in whom He can trust.
3. James was called with Peter and John and Jesus to the Mount of Transfiguration. There he saw Elijah and Moses and communed with them. Not only does a person who walks close with Christ get to see miracles that others do not see, but he gets to have experiences that others do not have. It is not enough to be saved; we ought to have other experiences with God. These experiences come only to those who walk closely with the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. James was taken to Gethsemane with Christ. Jesus and the apostles left the crowd. Jesus took with Him three of the apostles (one of them was James) as He went up to pray in Gethsemane, and there James got to know Jesus better. Not only does one get to see miracles the others do not see and have experiences others do not have, but one gets to know Jesus better as he walks closer to Him. In knowing Him better, we can be more like Him.