

Simon, the Zealot

“They were Called”



“And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zealot, and Judas the brother of James.” Acts.1:13 KJV

“I am called Simon, the Zealot. The Zealots of Israel were a group of men that were very enthusiastic but not always for the right cause. The zealots of Israel were sometimes violent and often tried to stir up trouble. I wasn’t violent and I certainly didn’t want to stir up trouble. I wanted to tell others about this wonderful man I met who I claimed as my Lord and Saviour. I had found happiness and love like I had never experienced before.

“I saw many things that influenced me. I saw the reaction of some of the worldly authorities, like the high priests, the Pharisees, and even the government officials, who were afraid that this man was trying to be an earthly king. I knew that was not His desire, but I didn’t totally understand what my role was in His plan either at first. I only knew that I believed and I wanted to follow Him. It was an inner faith I had in what He had to say to us.

“I stayed with Jesus until the very end and was there when He was taken up to Heaven. So, we went back to Jerusalem and met to see what we should do next. I had no dreams of greatness or hopes of being a great man in an earthly kingdom. Somehow I knew my place was just to tell others about God’s kingdom and how they could one day be a part of it.

“I just wanted to be the one that could touch people one by one to tell them about my Lord and Saviour. I didn’t want to be in the limelight, but neither was I willing to deny my love for Him. Eventually, they would get upset with my teaching and kill me, but I didn’t really care. Jesus had promised that He had gone to prepare a place for us, and I believed Him.

“I was just an ordinary man, but I was chosen to do an extraordinary job. I was one of the twelve disciples, yes, but you are just as important today as I was then. I had not had any scholarly learning, but I knew that Jesus was the Son of Man, and that He would do what He had promised. That is all we needed then, and it is all you need today. Yes, I was called a zealot. It sometimes has a negative meaning, but it can also mean an enthusiast, an evangelist, just as it can mean an extremist or a bigot. The choice is ours.

“I wanted to be that enthusiastic fisher of men that Jesus talked about. Are you a zealot for Jesus? I pray that you are. Jesus didn’t promise us that it would be easy, but He did promise to always be with us as long as we are willing to step out for Him against the crowd of unbelievers. And more important, He promised that we would someday be with Him again. Won’t you join me in spreading this love?”

Prayer: Dear Lord, You are an amazing God. You have created us in Your image and given us gifts far beyond our expectations or ability to comprehend. Help us to do our job to spread Your word and Your love to others each day in our own unique way. Amen

1. Are we a Zealot?
2. How can each of us do that little thing that helps the cause even if we don’t want to be seen?
3. How can we recognize others that are a part of the “glue” and encourage them to continue to be a zealot? An enthusiast? A believer?