

Zealots

zeal: *n* – eagerness and ardent interest in pursuit of something : fervor

zealous: *adj* – marked by fervent partisanship for a person, a cause, or an ideal

zealot: *n* – a zealous person especially : a fanatical partisan

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Is being zealous a good thing or a bad thing?

- a. Eager striving, enthusiasm in a suitable context
- b. Wrong goal... making it a defect

What category did Saul/Paul fall into?

Zealot (with a capital Z)

- 6 BC – Judas the Galilean
- First Commandment dictated no one other than God should be a lord over the Jewish people – what does that make taxes to Roman?
- Strictly observed the Sabbath
- Zealots were passionate about the coming of a messiah
- Willing martyrs
- In 6 AD lead a violent rebellion against the Romans
- Different resistance movements
 - Includes the Sicarii (known as assassins using curved daggers)
- Destruction of Jerusalem (70AD) and mass suicide at Masada in (74 AD)

Simon the Zealot

Not to be confused with Simon Peter

All four lists of the disciples call him “the Zealot”

Why would Jesus have called a Zealot to be among the 12?

- Matthew

Or was he just zealous?

Post-Pentecost:

- Perhaps preached in the British Isles or Egypt or...
- Death: crucifixion or sawn in half or maybe died peacefully?

James son of Alphaeus

Not to be confused with James the brother of John or brother of Jesus

Son of Alphaeus – see Mark 2:14 (p. 1554)

Sometimes referred to as James the Less (or the Minor or the Little or Lesser)

- Possibly refers to size or to age?

What about his mother?

- Mark 15:40 and 47 (p. 1584)
- Matthew 27:56 (p. 1549)
- John 19:25 (p. 1684) Does Clopas = Alphaeus?

Post-Pentecost tradition:

- Perhaps went to Syria and Persia
- Death: Stoned? Beaten to death? Crucified?

Judas son of James/Thaddaeus

Matthew & Mark call him Thaddaeus (Lebbaeus)

Luke & Acts call him Judas, son of James

☞ Also referred to sometimes as Jude (author of the Epistle?)

John 14:22 (p. 1676)

Is there anything we can surmise about him from this one question?

Tradition:

- Possibly preached in the areas of Turkey, Lebanon
- Possibly brought Christianity to Armenia with Bartholomew
- Death: Clubbed in Beirut?
- Remains: Rome? Monastery in Armenia?