

## **The Twelve: Walk A Mile in Their Shoes**

### **James, A Son of Thunder**

Matthew 14:22-33

“And he said to them, ‘O foolish ones, & slow of heart to believe...’”  
**Luke 24:25**

“These men who have turned the world upside down...” **Acts 17:6b**

#### **Why would God use such ordinary men for an extraordinary purpose?**

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter & John, & perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.” **Acts 4:13**

“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low & despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God... Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” **1 Corinthians 1:26-29, 31b**

#### **Today we’re talking about James: A Son of Thunder, with a very big personality!**

“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went & entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James & John saw it, they said, ‘Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven & consume them?’ But he turned & rebuked them. And they went on to another village.” **Luke 9:51-56**

**Main Idea:** God calls People with Big Personalities to even Bigger Sacrifice

#### **Three Common Traits of Big Personalities:**

##### **I. Hidden Problem: No Understanding – Luke 9:51-52**

“And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee & John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, & they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants & followed him.” **Mark 1:19-20**

“The Son of Man must suffer many things & be rejected by the elders & chief priests & scribes, & be killed, & on the third day be raised... Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.’ But they did not understand.” **Luke 9:22, 44-45a**

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, & do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, & he will make straight your paths.” **Proverbs 3:5-6**

##### **II. Obvious Problem: No Self-Awareness – Luke 9:53-54**

“So when James & John suggested fire from heaven as a fitting response to the Samaritans’ inhospitality, they probably thought they were standing on solid precedent. After all, Elijah was not condemned for his actions. On the contrary, at that time & under those circumstances, it was the appropriate response from Elijah, but not from James and John.” **John MacArthur**

##### **III. Solution to the Problem: Jesus – Luke 9:55-56**

“But He turned & rebuked them, & said, ‘You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.’ And they went to another village.” **Luke 9:55-56 (NKJV)**

“Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, & kneeling before him she asked him for something. And he said to her, ‘What do you want?’ She said to him, ‘Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand & one at your left, in your kingdom.’ Jesus answered, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?’ They said to him, ‘We are able.’ He said to them, ‘You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand & at my left hand is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.’” **Matthew 20:20-23**

“James wanted a crown of glory; Jesus gave him a cup of suffering. He wanted power; Jesus gave him servanthood. He wanted a place of prominence; Jesus gave him a martyr’s grave. He wanted to rule; Jesus gave him a sword – not to wield, but to be the instrument of his own execution.” **John MacArthur**

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” **2 Corinthians 5:10**

**The only way to prepare for this judgment is to be found in Christ. All righteousness apart from Jesus is self-righteousness. Jesus is the solution to all our problems.**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” **2 Corinthians 5:17**

#### **Response Time & Offering**

##### **Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson (1994)
- *New American Commentary Series: Matthew* – Craig Bloomberg (1992)
- *Daily Study Bible Series: Matthew* (vol 2) – William Barclay (1976)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Matthew 8-15* – John MacArthur (1987)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)
- *Matthew Henry’s Commentary* – Matthew Henry (1994)
- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – W.A. Elwell (2001)
- *Twelve Ordinary Men* – John MacArthur (2002)