

A BROTHER BECOMES A DISCIPLE
MATT. 12:46 / 10-6-19 / P.M.

I. JAMES' LIFE.

- A. His name is the Greek version of the Hebrew name Jacob.
- B. As we have already said, he and the other brothers didn't believe in Jesus.
1. Not only didn't they believe, they also thought he was crazy—Mark 3:21.
 2. Jesus may have been thinking about their disbelief in these passages—Mark 6:4 and Matt. 10:36.
- C. Certainly it was the resurrection that brought these brothers to faith.
1. One interesting thing about James is that Jesus made a special appearance to him following the resurrection—1 Cor. 15:7.
 2. Notice that the other brothers were not there which means James' testimony was enough to convince them that Jesus was alive.
- D. James became the leader or pastor of the church in Jerusalem as we said last week.
1. Paul acknowledged James' leadership—Gal. 1:19 and 2:9; Acts 21:17-18.
 2. Peter also acknowledged James' leadership—Acts 12:17.
 3. Notice James' speech given in support of taking the gospel to Gentiles—Acts 15:12-21.
- E. James was given two nicknames.
1. He was called "**James the Just**" by the second century historian Hegesippus because of his faithfulness and godly living.
 2. He also called James "**Old Camel Knees**" because of the calluses on his knees from long hours in prayer.
- F. James was stoned to death according to first century Jewish historian Josephus at the direction of the High Priest.
- Eusebius, another historian adds that James was first thrown from the top of the Temple in 62 A.D. then stoned because he would not renounce his faith in Jesus.
- G. In 2002 a respected Jewish Journal, "**Biblical Archaeology Review**" reported the finding of a first century "Ossuary" or Bone Box made of limestone and measuring 20 inches long. It dates back to around 70 A.D. No one disputes the age of this box. However, many dispute the inscription on the side of the box which reads, "**James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus**".

II. JAMES' LESSONS.

1. Doubt can give way to faith—John 20:27.
2. It takes a big person to admit they are wrong.
3. Family reconciliation is possible—James 1:1.
4. Growing up in a Christian home does not guarantee someone will become a Christian.
5. Don't stop praying for your lost family members.