

LIVING IN THE BACKGROUND
LUKE 6:15 / 8-11-19 / P.M.

I. JOHN'S LIFE.

1. Name or Names
 - a. James the son of Alphaeus—Luke 6:15.
 - b. May be brother of Matthew who was also a son of Alphaeus—Mark 2:14.
 - c. He was also the son of a woman named Mary—Mark 15:40 and 16:1.
 - d. He also had a brother named Joseph or Joses—Matt. 27:56.
 - e. He was sometimes called “James the Less”—Mark 15:40.
2. Hometown is unknown as are many other things about James.
3. Some theologians think he was the same James known as Jesus' brother.
 - a. An early church leader named Papias who died in 163 AD held this view.
 - b. Jerome who in the 5th century translated the Bible in to Latin (The Latin Vulgate) also held this view.
 - c. John 19:25 may lend itself to this view.
 - d. Earlier we saw that James' mother also had a son names Joseph—Matt. 27:56.
 - e. Scripture confirms that Jesus had brothers named James and Joseph (Joses)—Matt. 13:55.
4. If James was Jesus' brother then....
 - a. He was a leader in the church in Jerusalem after Jesus' ascension—Acts 12:17 15:13, 15:19, 21:18 and Gal. 1:19, 2:9.
 - b. He wrote the N.T. book bearing his name.
 - c. He was one of the first to see the resurrected Christ—1 Cor. 15:7.
 - d. Tradition says he was stoned to death in Jerusalem.

II. JAMES' LESSONS.

1. Play the hand God gives you even if it means living in the shadow of someone else.
2. Seek Jesus' fame not our own—Psa. 115:1 and John 3:30.
3. Knowing Jesus personally is all the fame we need.
 - a. Jesus hand-picked James to be one of his twelve disciples.
 - b. Jesus also hand-picked us to be saved—John 15:16.