

5/4/14

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 35

TITLE: **ALL THE KING'S MEN, PART III**

TEXT: LUKE 6:14B

INTRODUCTION: (1) ALONG WITH PETER,
ANDREW, JAMES AND JOHN WERE A PART OF
JESUS' INNER CIRCLE OF FOUR.

* THESE FOUR APOSTLES ARE OFTEN LOOKED ON
**AS WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED "STAINED GLASS
SAINTS".**

** THE REASON BEING THEY ARE FREQUENTLY
PORTRAYED WITH HALOS ABOVE THEIR HEADS
AND GENTLE, KIND, GRACIOUS EXPRESSIONS ON
THEIR FACES.

*** AND EVERYTHING FROM CITIES, RIVERS,
CHILDREN AND CHURCHES ARE NAMED AFTER
THEM. IN FACT WE HAVE SEVERAL ST. JOHNS,
**ST. JAMES AND A ST. PETER'S CHURCH IN OUR
AREA.**

* NOW AS WE SEE FROM THE NAMES OF THOSE **CHURCHES, THESE APOSTLE'S NAMES** ARE OFTEN PRECEDED BY THE WORD SAINT, WHICH ADDS TO THE NOTION THAT THEY WERE ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PLANE OF SPIRITUAL EXISTENCE FROM OTHER HUMAN BEING, INCLUDING OTHER CHRISTIANS.

(2) AND THAT'S WHY WHAT HAPPENED LAST SUNDAY IN ROME AT THE VATICAN WAS SO SAD.

* FOR POPE FRANCIS PROCLAIMED HIS PREDECESSORS JOHN THE 23RD AND JOHN PAUL THE SECOND, SAINTS IN FRONT OF MORE THAN A HALF A MILLION PILGRIMS ATTENDING.

** AND CHEERS AND APPLAUSE RANG OUT ACROSS **ST. PETER'S SQUARE** AFTER THE HISTORIC DOUBLE PAPAL CANONIZATION AS MANY IN THAT CROWD FIXED THEIR GAZE ON TAPESTRIES OF THE TWO POPES ON THE FAÇADE OF THE BASILICA BEHIND FRANCIS.

**** AND POPE FRANCIS SAID AND I QUOTE
ACCORDING TO REUTERS, "WE DECLARE AND
DEFINED BLESSED JOHN THE 23RD AND JOHN
PAUL II TO BE SAINTS AND WE ENROLL THEM
AMONG THE SAINTS, DECREERING THAT THEY
ARE VENERATED AS SUCH BY THE WHOLE
CHURCH.

(3) AND SADLY AGAIN, RELICS OF EACH MAN, A
CONTAINER OF BLOOD FROM JOHN PAUL II AND
SKIN FROM JOHN THE 23RD WERE PLACED NEAR
THE ALTAR.

* AND THIS WHOLE SERVICE TO CANONIZE TWO
POPES WAS SO UNBIBLICAL, FIRST BECAUSE
THERE IS NO SERVICE LIKE THIS IN THE BIBLE.

** TWO, ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED
SAINTS IN SCRIPTURE.

*** AND THEN NO HUMAN BEING IS TO BE
VENERATED, REVERED OR WORSHIPPED, ONLY
GOD ALMIGHTY. FOR AS PETER HIMSELF WAS
VENERATED IN ACTS 10:25&26 BY CORNELIUS,
NOTICE WHAT PETER SAID, (QUOTE IT).

**** NOW MY PURPOSE IN BRINGING THIS UP IS NOT TO BE UNKIND, BUT TO REMIND YOU **THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE BIBLE IS NOT THE FINAL AUTHORITY FOR BELIEF AND PRACTICE.**

(4) ALL KINDS OF MAN-MADE SINFUL PRACTICES ARE DONE AND PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT FOLLOWERS OF JESUS LOVE THOSE KINDS **OF "RELIGIOUS PRACTICES."**

- BUT NO MAN IS TO BE VENERATED AND ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE SAINTS. AND ALTHOUGH PETER, ANDREW, JAMES AND JOHN HAD AN UNCOMMON CALLING AS APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST, THEY WERE COMMON PEOPLE, MUCH LIKE THE REST OF US.

* THEY WERE SAINTS ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT EVERY TRUE BELIEVER IS A SAINT, MADE HOLY UNTO GOD THROUGH THE IMPARTED RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JESUS CHRIST AND AWAITING THE FULL PERFECTION OF SAINTHOOD IN HEAVEN.

** AND EVERY BELIEVER IS A SAINT, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT ALWAYS ACT LIKE IT. PAUL IN WRITING TO THE BELIEVERS AT ROME IN **ROMANS 1:7 SAID: "TO ALL WHO ARE BELOVED OF GOD IN ROME, CALLED AS SAINTS: GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST."**

*** AND THEN AS PAUL WRITES HIS FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS HE WROTE THIS **IN I COR. 1:2: "TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH, TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SANCTIFIED IN CHRIST JESUS, SAINTS BY CALLING, WITH ALL WHO IN EVERY PLACE CALL UPON THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THEIR LORD AND OURS."**

**** NOW IF SAINTS ARE CERTAIN CANONIZED PEOPLE WHO WERE SUPER SPIRITUAL, THE CORINTHIANS WOULD NOT HAVE QUALIFIED FOR THEY WERE NOT TOO SPIRITUAL AT TIMES AND IN HIS FIRST EPISTLE PAUL CORRECTS ONE PROBLEM AFTER ANOTHER.

(5) BUT EVERY INDIVIDUAL THAT IS IN CHRIST IS A SAINT, THAT IS OUR POSITION IN CHRIST, AND AS WE GROW WE MATCH UP OUR PRACTICE WITH OUR POSITION MORE AND MORE.

* AND MY POINT IS, SAINT ANDREW, AND ST. JAMES, AND ST. JOHN, WERE MEN OF LIKE PASSIONS AS WE ARE.

** AND LIKE SAINT PETER, THESE MEN DO NOT APPEAR ON THE SURFACE TO BE IDEAL CANDIDATES FOR BECOMING APOSTLES AND THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH.

*** YET FROM THE ACCOUNTS OF THESE MEN BOTH IN THE GOSPELS AND THE REST OF THE N.T., WE LEARN THAT GOD IS ABLE TO USE IN HIS SERVICE ANY KIND OF PERSON WHO SUBMITS TO JESUS CHRIST AS LORD.

**** **AND FOR OUR STUDY TODAY, WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT 3 APOSTLES.**

(6) AND REMEMBER THAT THESE MEN ALONG WITH PETER WERE THE MOST INTIMATE SPIRITUALLY WITH THE LORD.

* AND ON TOP OF THAT THEY WERE FROM THE SAME TOWN, HAD THE SAME PROFESSION, AND WERE THE FIRST ONES CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS IN HIS MINISTRY. TWO SETS OF BROTHERS.

** NOW AS WE LOOK AT THESE MEN TODAY, ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS: WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE CAN GOD USE? WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD?

*** WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE PREACH THE GOSPEL SO THAT GOD IS GLORIFIED AND PEOPLE ARE SAVED? WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE DOES GOD ORDAIN FOR HIS PURPOSES?

**** WELL, IN OUR STUDY LAST SUNDAY WE SAW THAT GOD USES PEOPLE LIKE PETER, WITH ALL HIS FRAILTIES AND FAULTS. AND IN OUR STUDY OF **ALL THE KING'S MEN TODAY, WE'LL** SEE THAT GOD USES MEN LIKE ANDREW, JAMES AND JOHN.

(7) **AND THAT'S OUR OUTLINE FOR TODAY,** ANDREW, JAMES AND JOHN. AND WITHOUT FURTHER INTRODUCTION, LOOK BACK AT LUKE 6:14, AS WE START TO PAINT A PORTRAIT OF ANDREW.

I. ANDREW, (READ LUKE 6:14)

A. NOW ANDREW WAS PETER'S BROTHER AND HIS NAME LIT. MEANS "MANLY".

* HE LIKE PETER WAS A NATIVE OF BETHSAIDA, A LITTLE VILLAGE IN GALILEE, AND LIKE HIS BROTHER, ANDREW WAS A FISHERMAN.

** NOW BEFORE BECOMING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST, ANDREW WAS A DISCIPLE OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER.

*** BUT WHEN JOHN THE BAPTIZER DECLARED **OF JESUS WHEN HE SAW HIM, "BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD THAT TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD," JOHN 1:29**, ANDREW ALONG WITH JOHN LEFT JOHN THE BAPTIZER AND STARTED FOLLOWING JESUS ACCORDING TO JOHN 1:36&37.

**** AND FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, ANDREW **WAS A PART OF THE INTIMATE FOUR. BUT IT'S** INTERESTING TO NOTE, THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE AN INNER CIRCLE WITHIN THE FIRST GROUP OF FOUR MENTIONED IN THE 4 LISTS OF THE APOSTLES.

1. IN OTHER WORDS, ANDREW WAS ON THE INSIDE, BUT HE NEVER QUITE CRACKED THE INNER CIRCLE. FOR THE GOSPELS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS MAKE REFERENCE TO PETER, JAMES AND JOHN TOGETHER.

* BUT ONLY ONCE OUTSIDE OF THE LISTS OF THE APOSTLES IS ANDREW MENTIONED ALONG WITH PETER, JAMES AND JOHN, AND THAT REFERENCE IS MARK 13:3.

** BEYOND THAT, IN THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS (MATTHEW, MARK AND LUKE) ANDREW IS NOT MENTIONED EXCEPT IN THE LISTS OF THE 12.

***** AND IN ONLY 3 ACCOUNTS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL**
DO WE FIND ANY INFORMATION ABOUT HIM
MORE THAN HIS NAME.

2. AND THE FIRST ACCOUNT IS, AND IN JOHN
1:36-42, AFTER ANDREW STARTED FOLLOWING
CHRIST, ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS HE DID WAS
WHAT?

* HE WENT AND TOLD HIS BROTHER PETER
ABOUT JESUS AND SAID WE HAVE FOUND THE
MESSIAH AND HE BROUGHT PETER TO JESUS.

**** NOW THE 2'D ACCOUNT IN JOHN ABOUT**
ANDREW IS JOHN 6:5-9. AND IN THIS CONTEXT
JESUS HAD BEEN TEACHING A VAST MULTITUDE
OF PEOPLE LATE INTO THE DAY, AND THEY HAD
BEGUN TO GET HUNGRY.

***** NOW THERE WASN'T ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED**
THE CROWD, BUT ANDREW BROUGHT A LITTLE
BOY WITH FIVE BARLEY LOAVES AND TWO FISH
TO JESUS AND HE FED FIVE THOUSAND MEN
PLUS WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

3. AND THEN THE THIRD TIME WE MEET ANDREW IS IN JOHN 12:20-22. AND IN THAT PASSAGE PHILIP HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY SOME GREEKS WHO WANTED TO SEE JESUS, SO GUESS WHO PHILIP TOOK THE GREEKS TO? THE ANSWER IS ANDREW.

* AND GUESS WHO TOOK THEM TO JESUS? **YOU'RE RIGHT** - ANDREW AND PHILIP. ANDREW FOR SOME REASON WAS INVOLVED. PHILIP **DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT ALONE.**

** AND THERE ARE TWO APPLICATIONS I WANT TO MAKE FROM THESE PASSAGES ABOUT ANDREW AND THE 4 LISTS OF THE 12.

*** NO. 1 ANDREW WAS INVOLVED IN BRINGING PEOPLE TO JESUS. WHETHER IT WAS PETER, WHETHER IT WAS THE BOY WITH THE 5 LOAVES AND TWO FISH, OR WHETHER IT WAS THE GREEKS WHO WANTED TO BE INTRODUCED TO JESUS.

**** ANDREW BROUGHT PEOPLE TO CHRIST. ANDREW KNEW THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH AND THAT PEOPLE NEEDED TO KNOW CHRIST, SO HE KNEW THAT JESUS WAS THEIR NEED SO HE DIRECTED PEOPLE TO CHRIST.

4. AND IN A WORLD OF CONFUSION, IN A WORLD OF DEPRESSION, IN A WORLD OF PEOPLE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO FILL THE VOID THAT THEIR SIN BRINGS, WE NEED TO CONTINUALLY POINT THEM TO CHRIST.

* AND OF COURSE, THERE IS NOTHING **PROFOUND ABOUT THAT, IT'S A COMMAND THAT WE NEED TO OBEY, BUT ALSO IT'S LOGICAL, FOR CHRIST IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TAKE CARE OF PEOPLE'S GREATEST NEED, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

** AND PEOPLE DO EVERYTHING TODAY TO RUN AWAY FROM THE GUILT AND CONSEQUENCES OF SIN WHICH IN TURN BRINGS MORE GUILT AND MORE CONSEQUENCES.

*** BELOVED THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR IS HARD, QUOTE PROVERBS 13:15, ALSO QUOTE ISAIAH 57:20&21, PROVERBS 27:20, PSALM. 73:3&17.

**** AND A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE ON A COLLISION COURSE TO HELL AND ARE RUINING THEIR LIVES AND FAMILIES IN THE PROCESS WITH DRUGS, ALCOHOL, IMMORALITY, GLUTTONY AND MATERIALISM THAT CAUSES THEM MORE ANXIETY AND PAIN.

***** THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE GOING CRAZY WHO HAVE **EVERYTHING, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW CHRIST, SO THEY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BUT THEIR SIN WHICH WILL DAMN THEM. LET'S** NOT BE DECEIVED AND ENVY THEM – PROVERBS 23:17.

- **BUT IN THE PROCESS, LET'S MAKE SURE WE** ARE POINTING PEOPLE TO CHRIST AND CLEARLY PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL.

5. NOW **NO. 2, A QUICK 2'D APPLICATION** ABOUT ANDREW. IT APPEARS TO ME THAT **ANDREW DIDN'T MIND PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE.**

* I MEAN IN THE LIST OF THE 12 IN MATTHEW **AND LUKE HE IS REFERRED TO AS PETER'S** BROTHER, WHEN HIS NAME IS REFERRED TO IN OTHER PASSAGES WITHOUT GIVING US DETAILS **LIKE THE 3 ACCOUNTS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, MANY TIMES HE IS CALLED PETER'S BROTHER.**

** IN MATTHEW 4:18, MARK 1:16, LUKE 6:14, JOHN 1:40 AND JOHN 6:8 ANDREW IS CALLED BY HIS NAME, BUT IS ALSO REFERRED TO AS **PETER'S BROTHER.**

*** AND IT APPEARS THAT ANDREW LIVED IN **THE SHADOW OF HIS BROTHER, AND AS I'VE** ALREADY MENTIONED, HE NEVER CRACKED THE INNER CIRCLE.

**** YET THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT HE EVER RESENTED HIS POSITION OR FUNCTION. HE WAS CONTENT SIMPLY TO BELONG TO AND SERVE JESUS.

6. ANDREW APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN A HUMBLE MAN, AND IS A MODEL FOR ALL CHRISTIANS WHO LABOR QUIETLY IN HUMBLE PLACES AND POSITIONS, THAT ARE NOT UP-FRONT, IN THE LIMELIGHT.

* BUT WHO ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ANY CHURCH TO FUNCTION PROPERLY, THE LIT. BACKBONE OF THE MINISTRY. AND WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT THE ANDREWS. I THANK GOD FOR ALL OF YOU WHO ARE ANDREWS TODAY. WHAT AN IMPACT YOU HAVE FOR THE KINGDOM BOTH BY YOUR BEHIND THE SCENES MINISTRY AND BRINGING PEOPLE LIKE PETER TO THE LORD.

** BUT I MUST MOVE ON THIS MORNING TO THE THIRD MAN MENTIONED IN THE LIST IN LUKE 6:14 **AND THE 2'D ONE WE'RE COVERING TODAY,** JAMES.

II. JAMES

A. NOW JAMES WAS A PART OF THE INNER CIRCLE OF PETER, JAMES AND JOHN.

* AND IN THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS, JAMES NEVER APPEARS APART FROM HIS BROTHER JOHN AND DURING THE 3 YEARS OF TRAINING UNDER JESUS THEY WERE INSEPARABLE.

**** NOW AS JAMES AND JOHN'S NAMES ARE LISTED TOGETHER, JAMES IS ALWAYS MENTIONED FIRST, PROBABLY MAKING REFERENCE THAT HE WAS THE OLDER OF THE TWO BROTHERS.**

*** BEYOND THAT, JAMES AND JOHN WERE FISHING PARTNERS WITH THEIR FATHER ZEBEDEE, WHO WAS APPARENTLY WELL TO DO, BECAUSE HE EMPLOYED HIRED SERVANTS IN HIS BUSINESS ACCORDING TO MARK 1:20.

**** JAMES AND JOHN WERE CALLED THE SONS OF THUNDER BY JESUS IN MARK 3:17, MAKING REFERENCE TO THEIR PERSONALITIES AS PASSIONATE, ZEALOUS, FERVENT AND AGGRESSIVE MEN.

***** AND JAMES HAD GREAT ZEAL AND AMBITION, BUT SOMETIMES THAT ZEAL AND AMBITION LACKED WISDOM, COMPASSION AND SENSITIVITY. HE HAD A FIERY NATURE.

1. FOR EXAMPLE, IN LUKE 9:52-54, JESUS WAS ON HIS WAY TO JERUSALEM, AND HE SENT SOME OF HIS DISCIPLES ON AHEAD OF HIM TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO STAY IN SAMARIA ON HIS WAY.

* BUT THE SAMARITANS WOULD NOT ACCOMMODATE CHRIST BECAUSE HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO JERUSALEM.

**** WELL, JAMES AND JOHN'S RESPONSE IN JOHN 9:54 WAS, "LORD, DO YOU WANT US TO COMMAND FIRE TO COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND CONSUME THEM?"**

***** NOW JAMES AND JOHN HAD ZEAL, BUT THEY LACKED LOVE AND SENSITIVITY. "LORD DO YOU WANT US TO ZAP THEM", "LORD, THEY'RE TOAST, LET'S BROIL THEM NOW FOR REJECTING YOU."**

****** AND JESUS REBUKED THEM IN LUKE 9:55 FOR THEIR ATTITUDES.**

2. AND THEN BEYOND THAT TO SEE JAMES AND **JOHN'S AMBITION, IN MATT. 20:20-24**, THEY ACTUALLY PUT THEIR MOTHER UP TO ASKING JESUS TO GRANT THEM SEATS ON EITHER SIDE OF HIS THRONE IN THE KINGDOM.

*** AND THE LORD REPLIED, "ARE YOU ABLE TO DRINK THE CUP THAT I AM ABOUT TO DRINK?"**

** AND WITHOUT HESITATION THEY REPLIED
CONFIDENTLY, "WE ARE ABLE."

*** AND JAMES AND JOHN WOULD DRINK OF
THE CUP OF THE LORD, A CUP OF SUFFERING.
BUT JAMES WANTED A CROWN, BUT JESUS
WOULD GIVE HIM A CUP.

**** FOR WHO WAS THE FIRST APOSTLE
MARTYRED FOR THE LORD? IT WAS JAMES, FOR
HEROD WOULD HAVE HIM EXECUTED IN THE
BOOK OF ACTS.

3. AND JAMES WOULD HAVE TO LEARN TO BE A
SERVANT AND DIE AS A SERVANT, IN FACT IN
THE TEXT IN MATTHEW 20 WHEN JAMES AND
JOHN SHOW THEIR AMBITION AND WANT A
CROWN, JESUS WILL SAY IN MATTHEW 20:26-
28. (QUOTE THEM)

* AND I BELIEVE JAMES LEARNED THAT LESSON. FOR WHEN HEROD WANTED TO ATTACK AND DESTROY THE INFANT CHURCH, HE SINGLED OUT JAMES FOR ARREST AND EXECUTION.

** AND THE FACT THAT HE CHOSE JAMES FIRST SUGGESTS THAT THIS APOSTLE MAY HAVE BEEN MORE PUBLICLY NOTICEABLE THAN EVEN PETER OR JOHN.

*** FOR IT WAS ONLY AFTER HE SAW THAT THE MURDER OF JAMES PLEASED THE JEWS THAT **HEROD "PROCEEDED TO ARREST PETER ALSO"** ACCORDING TO ACTS 12:1-3.

**** **AND IT APPEARS THAT IN KING HEROD'S** EYES, JAMES SEEMED TO BE THE MOST DANGEROUS. HE WAS PROBABLY THUNDEROUS AND UNRELENTING IN HIS MINISTRY, AND BECAUSE OF IT BECAME THE FIRST APOSTOLIC **MARTYR. NO DOUBT JAMES' ZEAL WOULD** GROW INTO IT BE PRACTICED IN WISDOM AND LOVE.

4. WHICH LEAD US TO THE LAST APOSTLE MENTIONED IN THIS FIRST GROUP, JOHN, THE BROTHER OF JAMES.

III. JOHN

A. NOW JOHN IS ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT APOSTLES IN THE N.T. HE NOT ONLY FIGURES PROMINENTLY IN THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS BUT WROTE ONE OF THE GOSPELS HIMSELF, AS WELL AS 3 EPISTLES AND THE BOOK OF REVELATION.

*** AND I'VE ALREADY GIVEN YOU A LOT OF** INFORMATION ABOUT HIM IN TALKING ABOUT HIS BROTHER JAMES, BUT A COUPLE OF THINGS STAND OUT TO ME ABOUT JOHN.

** NO. 1 HE IS CALLED THE APOSTLE OF LOVE. AND THAT IS REALLY ENCOURAGING TO ME, FOR IT SHOWS THAT PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO LACK LOVE AT TIMES HAVE HOPE.

*** THE REASON BEING, JOHN OBVIOUSLY WAS NOT ALWAYS A MAN OF LOVE. FOR REMEMBER HE WAS A SON OF THUNDER, A FIERY NATURE, AND HE ALONG WITH HIS BROTHER WANTED TO CALL FIRE DOWN FROM HEAVEN TO DESTROY THE SAMARITANS, NOT TOO LOVING.

**** AND BEYOND THAT, IN MARK 9:38, JOHN CAME AND REPORTED **TO JESUS, "TEACHER, WE SAW SOMEONE CASTING OUT DEMONS IN YOUR NAME, AND WE TRIED TO HINDER HIM BECAUSE HE WAS NOT FOLLOWING US."**

1. AND IT APPEARS AT THAT TIME THAT JOHN DID NOT LOOK FAVORABLY ON THOSE WHO WERE NOT AFFILIATED WITH HIS OWN GROUP, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE FAITHFULLY DOING **THE LORD'S WORK. JOHN DEFINITELY LACKED** LOVE FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST AT THAT TIME.

* BUT JESUS WOULD TURN HIM INTO THE APOSTLE OF LOVE AND ONE WHO WOULD BE A GREAT WITNESS FOR THE LORD.

** FOR GET THIS, IN HIS FIVE N.T. BOOKS JOHN USES FORMS OF THE WORD LOVE 80 TIMES AND WITNESS OR ITS SYNONYMS SOME 70 TIMES.

*** HE WAS ALWAYS A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH AND EVEN A TEACHER OF LOVE. AND TRUTH GUARDED HIS LOVE, AND LOVE SURROUNDED HIS TRUTH.

**** JOHN WAS THE APOSTLE OF LOVE, BUT HIS LOVE WAS CONTROLLED BY TRUTH AND SOUND DOCTRINE.

2. AND I BRING THAT UP BECAUSE SOMETIMES LOVE IS COMMUNICATED AS A CHARACTERISTIC THAT IS ALL SENTIMENTAL AND EMOTIONAL AND FEELINGS, BEING GUSHY.

* BUT BELOVED, LOVE IS NOT WISHY-WASHY, LOVE DOES NOT COMPROMISE THE TRUTH, IT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH, I CORINTHIANS 13:6.

** AND IT IS APPARENT THAT JOHN WAS NOT A COMPROMISER IN DOCTRINE AND IN STANDARDS OF TRUTH. FOR IT IS CLEAR FROM **JOHN'S EPISTLES THAT HE DID NOT SLIP INTO A** FOOLISH AND TOLERANT SENTIMENTALITY THAT OFTEN MASQUERADES AS LOVE THAT IS ECUMENICAL.

*** JOHN WARNED ABOUT ANTICHRISTS TEACHING FALSE DOCTRINE, QUOTE I JOHN 2:22&23 AND II JOHN V. 10.

**** JOHN CALLS PEOPLE WHO SAY THAT THEY **KNOW CHRIST BUT DON'T OBEY HIM LIARS,** QUOTE I JOHN 2:3&4, I JOHN 3:14&15, I JOHN 4:7&8, I JOHN 4:20&21, I JOHN 5:3.

- I JOHN 3:9&10 - **"NO ONE WHO IS BORN OF GOD PRACTICES SIN, BECAUSE HIS SEED ABIDES IN HIM; AND HE CANNOT SIN, BECAUSE HE IS BORN OF GOD. BY THIS THE CHILDREN OF GOD AND THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL ARE OBVIOUS; ANY ONE WHO DOES NOT PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS IS NOT OF GOD, NOR THE ONE WHO DOES NOT LOVE HIS BROTHER."**

3. NOW THE POINT I WANT TO MAKE IS, JOHN BECAME A LOVER OF PEOPLE, BUT A LOVER OF PEOPLE WHOSE LOVE WAS CONTROLLED BY THE TRUTH.

* AND JESUS HAD A SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS HEART FOR JOHN, FOR HE IS REFERRED TO AT LEAST 5 TIMES TO THE APOSTLE WHOM JESUS LOVED.

** AND AS JESUS WAS DYING ON THE CROSS, WHO DID HE COMMIT THE CARE OF HIS MOTHER TO? THE ANSWER IS JOHN. HE MUST OF LOVED AND TRUSTED JOHN A LOT. (WOMAN BEHOLD

YOUR SON, JOHN BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER IN JOHN 19:26&27.)

AND AS I WRAP UP THINGS TODAY: (1) LET ME SAY IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE LORD USES A VARIETY OF PEOPLE. AND JESUS TRANSFORMED ANDREW, JAMES AND JOHN INTO EFFECTIVE FISHERS OF MEN AND FOUNDATION LAYERS OF HIS CHURCH.

* AND ALL 3 SUFFERED FOR THEIR FAITHFULNESS. TRADITION SAYS THAT ANDREW LED THE WIFE OF A PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR TO CHRIST AND THAT WHEN SHE REFUSED TO RECANT HER FAITH THE GOVERNOR HAD ANDREW CRUCIFIED ON AN X-SHAPED CROSS, WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME HIS SYMBOL IN CHURCH LORE.

** HE IS SAID TO HAVE HUNG ON THE CROSS IN AGONY FOR TWO DAYS, PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO THOSE WHO PASSED BY FOR AS LONG AS HE WAS ABLE.

*** THEN BIBLICALLY WE KNOW THAT JAMES WAS MARTYRED, BUT ACCORDING TO TRADITION WHEN JAMES HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH AND WAS ABOUT TO BE BEHEADED, IT IS SAID THAT THE ROMAN SOLDIER WHO GUARDED HIM WAS SO IMPRESSED WITH HIS COURAGE AND CONSTANCY OF SPIRIT THAT HE **KNELT AT THE APOSTLE'S FEET, BEGGING** FORGIVENESS FOR THE ROUGH TREATMENT HE HAD GIVEN HIM AND FOR HIS PART IN THE UPCOMING EXECUTION.

**** JAMES IS SAID TO HAVE LIFTED THE MAN UP, EMBRACED AND KISSED HIM, AND SAID, **"PEACE MY SON. PEACE TO YOU AND THE PARDON OF YOUR FAULTS."**

2. THE SOLDIER IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN SO MOVED BY JAMES COMPASSION THAT HE PUBLICLY CONFESSED CHRIST AND WAS BEHEADED ALONGSIDE THE APOSTLE.

* AND THEN SCRIPTURE REPORTS THAT JOHN WAS BANISHED TO THE SMALL AND BARREN ISLE OF PATMOS FOR PREACHING CHRIST. HIS SUFFERING LASTED LONGER IN A SENSE FOR HE DIED ABOUT A.D. 98.

** HIS BROTHER JAMES WAS THE FIRST OF THE APOSTLES TO GO TO HEAVEN, AND HE WAS THE LAST.

*** BUT ANDREW, JAMES AND JOHN, ORDINARY FISHERMEN LIVED EXTRAORDINARILY FOR THE LORD.

**** FOR IN THE POWER OF CHRIST, THESE ORDINARY MEN WERE TRANSFORMED INTO MEN THAT TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN.

3. AND IT WAS NOT WHAT THEY WERE IN THEMSELVES BUT WHAT THEY WERE SOVEREIGNLY AND WILLINGLY MADE TO BECOME THAT RENDERED THEM SUCH

**POWERFUL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE MASTER'S
HANDS.**

* THE FISHERMEN OF GALILEE BECAME FISHERS
OF MEN ON A VAST SCALE, AND IN GOD'S
POWER WERE USED TO BRING THOUSANDS OF
PEOPLE INTO THE KINGDOM AND THEIR WORK
STILL GOES ON TODAY.

**** MAY WE BE USED IN THAT WAY ALSO. (LET'S
PRAY)**