

6/8/14

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR  
HAS COME, WEEK 38

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

TEXT: LUKE 6:15 & 16A

INTRODUCTION: (1) FOR A NUMBER OF WEEKS  
**NOW, WE'VE BEEN LOOKING AT THE QUESTION,**  
WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE DOES GOD USE?

**\* AND WE'VE SEEN THAT THE LORD USES ALL  
KINDS OF PEOPLE AS WE'VE LOOKED AT 7 OF  
THE APOSTLES.**

**\*\* IN FACT, WE'VE SEEN THAT THE LORD CAN  
TAKE ANY KIND OF RAW MATERIAL AND USE IT  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HIS GLORIOUS,  
ETERNAL KINGDOM.**

**\*\*\* NOW THIS PRINCIPLE AND TRUTH CAN BE  
ILLUSTRATED BY THE FOLLOWING:**

\*\*\*\* LONGFELLOW COULD TAKE A WORTHLESS  
PIECE OF PAPER, WRITE A POEM ON IT, AND  
INSTANTLY MAKE IT WORTH THOUSANDS OF  
DOLLARS - **AND IT'S CALLED GENIUS.**

(2) BILL GATES CAN SIGN HIS NAME TO A PIECE  
OF PAPER AND MAKE IT WORTH MILLIONS OF  
DOLLARS - **AND IT'S CALLED RICHES.**

\* THOMAS KINCADE COULD TAKE A CHEAP PIECE  
OF CANVAS, PAINT A PICTURE ON IT, AND MAKE  
IT WORTH THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS - **AND IT'S  
CALLED ART.**

**\*\* A MECHANIC CAN TAKE A PART THAT'S**  
WORTH ONLY 25 DOLLARS, FIX YOUR CAR AND  
CHARGE YOU 300 DOLLARS - **AND IT'S CALLED**  
SKILL.

\*\*\* BUT JESUS CHRIST CAN TAKE A WORTHLESS,  
SINFUL LIFE, WASH IT IN HIS BLOOD, PUT HIS  
SPIRIT IN IT, AND MAKE IT VALUABLE TO GOD  
**THE FATHER, AND IT'S CALLED SALVATION AND**  
SANCTIFICATION.

\*\*\*\* MY POINT BEING, THE LORD IS IN THE BUSINESS OF TAKING ROUGH, RAW MATERIAL AND USING IT, TRANSFORMING MEN AND WOMEN BY HIS POWER TO BE THE EXTENSION OF HIS WORK IN THE WORLD.

3. OUR LORD TAKES A VESSEL OF WRATH AND TURNS IT INTO A VESSEL OF HONOR FOR HIS USE. AND IN THAT WAY THEN, THE HUMAN INSTRUMENT IS NEVER THE ISSUE BECAUSE THE FOCUS IS ALWAYS ON JESUS CHRIST.

\* A FURTHER ILLUSTRATION OF THIS IS THE STORY OF THE GREAT ARTIST WHO PAINTED A PICTURE OF THE LAST SUPPER.

\*\* WHEN HE FINISHED, HE CALLED IN HIS FRIEND TO LOOK AT IT AND GIVE HIS EVALUATION.

\*\*\* AFTER GAZING AT IT FOR SOME TIME THE **FRIEND REMARKED, "THOSE CUPS THAT ARE ON THE TABLE ARE THE MOST MAGNIFICENT CUPS I'VE EVER SEEN!!"**

\*\*\*\* TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF THE DUMBFOUNDED FRIEND, THE ARTIST IMMEDIATELY PICKED UP HIS BRUSH AND SOME **PAINT AND PAINTED OVER EACH CUP, SAYING, "I FAILED. I WANTED YOU TO SEE CHRIST - BUT YOU SAW THE CUPS."**

**4. AND BELOVED, IT'S A WONDERFUL THING TO BE A VESSEL FIT FOR THE MASTER'S USE, BUT THAT'S NOT WHERE THE FOCUS IS TO BE.**

\* FOR ONE OF THE GREAT TRAGEDIES OF MODERN CHRISTIANITY IS THAT WE FOCUS ON **THE CUPS AND DON'T SEE CHRIST.**

\*\* WE ARE PERSONALITY ORIENTED RATHER THAN WORD ORIENTED, EXALTING THE CUP, THE PERSONALITY, OVER THE WORD AND CHRIST.

\*\*\* **AND YES WE'VE ALL BEEN INFLUENCED BY CERTAIN PEOPLE AND AUTHORS AND PREACHERS, I HAVE, AND I THANK GOD FOR THOSE PEOPLE.**

\*\*\*\* BUT WE MUST REMEMBER THEY ARE CUPS, SERVANTS AND NOT THE SAVIOR, AND THE EMPHASIS AND GLORY SHOULD GO TO HIM.

5. AND LIKEWISE WITH THE 12, CHRIST USED UNLIKELY, ORDINARY, MARRED CHIPPED BROKEN VESSELS TO TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN AND ESTABLISH HIS CHURCH, NOT THEIRS.

\* AND IN OUR STUDY OF THOSE MEN, MY DESIRE IS NOT TO EXALT THE MEN, BUT TO EXALT THE SAVIOR, AND TO SHOW YOU THAT YOU CAN BE USED BY THE MASTER TO BRING GREAT GLORY TO HIM AS A BELIEVER, BECAUSE CHRIST USED THE 12.

\*\* AND TODAY I WANT TO CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF ALL THE KING'S **MEN**, PART VI BY LOOKING AT 4 MORE OF THE APOSTLES, MATTHEW, JAMES - THE SON OF ALPHEUS, SIMON THE ZEALOT AND JUDAS THE SON OF JAMES.

\*\*\* AND THOSE 4 NAMES OF THOSE MEN WILL BE OUR OUTLINE TODAY. AND THE RECURRING THEME IS, CHRIST USED WHAT WOULD BE CALLED THE SCUM OF THE EARTH, NOBODIES AND A RELIGIOUS ZEALOT TO ADVANCE HIS WORK AND KINGDOM.

\*\*\*\* **AND THE FIRST ONE WE'LL LOOK AT TODAY** IS MATTHEW, THE HUMAN AUTHOR OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW. LOOK AT LUKE 6:15 PLEASE.

I. MATTHEW, (READ LUKE 6:15)

A. NOW BECAUSE HE WROTE THE FIRST GOSPEL, MATTHEW IS ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN APOSTLES. BUT THE N.T. REVEALS VERY FEW DETAILS OF HIS LIFE OR MINISTRY.

\* AND YOU GET THE SENSE AS YOU STUDY THE **GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, THAT THAT'S THE WAY** HE WANTED IT AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IN INSPIRATION ORDAINED IT.

\*\* FOR IN HIS OWN GOSPEL (AND EVEN IN MARK, LUKE AND JOHN) MATTHEW IS FACELESS AND ABSOLUTELY VOICELESS DURING HIS TIME OF TRAINING UNDER JESUS.

\*\*\* HE ASKS NO QUESTIONS AND MAKES NO COMMENTS. HE APPEARS DIRECTLY IN NO NARRATIVE.

\*\*\*\* IN FACT, ONLY FROM MARK 2:15 AND LUKE 5:29 DO WE LEARN THAT THE BANQUET JESUS **ATE WITH "TAX GATHERERS AND SINNERS" WAS IN MATTHEW'S HOUSE.**

1. FOR IN HIS OWN GOSPEL, THE FACT THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT IS ONLY IMPLIED IN MATTHEW 9:10.

\* MATTHEW OBVIOUSLY WAS EAGER AND OVERJOYED FOR HIS FRIENDS AND FORMER ASSOCIATES TO MEET JESUS, HE WAS BURDENED FOR HIS OLD FRIENDS, BUT HE CALLS NO ATTENTION TO HIS OWN ROLE IN THE BANQUET.

\*\* TO SHOW YOU WHAT I MEAN MATTHEW 9:9&10 SAYS:

MATTHEW 9:9 - AS JESUS WENT ON FROM THERE, HE SAW A MAN CALLED MATTHEW, SITTING IN THE **TAX COLLECTOR'S BOOTH**; AND HE SAID TO HIM, "**FOLLOW ME!**" AND HE GOT UP AND FOLLOWED HIM.

v. 10 - THEN IT HAPPENED THAT AS JESUS WAS RECLINING AT THE TABLE IN THE HOUSE (IT **DOESN'T SAY WHO'S HOUSE**) BEHOLD, MANY TAX COLLECTORS AND SINNERS CAME AND WERE DINING WITH JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES.

\*\*\* NOW AGAIN MARK & LUKE MAKE IT CLEAR **THAT THIS BANQUET WAS AT MATTHEW'S** HOUSE. MATTHEW HAD A GREAT BURDEN FOR HIS FORMER ASSOCIATES FOR THEIR SOULS, FOR REMEMBER TAX-COLLECTORS WERE OUTCASTS, THE SCUM OF THE EARTH, JEWS WHO HAD SOLD OUT TO ROME.



\*\*\*\* BUT MATTHEW WANTED THESE OUTCASTS TO MEET JESUS. SO TWO THINGS THAT STAND OUT ABOUT MATTHEW: HIS BURDEN FOR THE LOST AND HIS HUMILITY, **HE DOESN'T MAKE A BIG DEAL OF HIMSELF IN HIS GOSPEL.**

2. NOW I BELIEVE HIS HUMILITY IS FURTHER COMMUNICATED IN MATTHEW 10:2-4, FOR NO OTHER DISCIPLE IN THE LIST IS ASSOCIATED WITH HIS JOB, HIS VOCATION.

\* BUT HOW DOES MATTHEW DESCRIBE HIMSELF IN MATT. 10:3? AS MATTHEW THE TAX COLLECTOR.

\*\* NOW WHY DOES MATTHEW MAKE REFERENCE TO HIMSELF AS THE TAX COLLECTOR?

\*\*\* WAS IT SOMETHING HE WAS PROUD OF? NO! AGAIN A TAX COLLECTOR WAS THE MOST HATED, DESPISED, DESPICABLE HUMAN BEING IN THE SOCIETY IN ISRAEL.

\*\*\*\* TO ME MATTHEW WAS SIMPLY SHOWING US HIS GENUINE HUMILITY AND SENSE OF SINFUL UNWORTHINESS.

3. HE SENSED PERSONAL SINFULNESS AS PERHAPS NONE OF HIS FELLOW DISCIPLES DID, BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN GREEDILY AND UNASHAMEDLY INVOLVED IN EXTORTION, DECEPTION AND CRAFT.

\* AND HIS HUMILITY WAS BORN OUT OF HIS OVERWHELMING SENSE OF SINFULNESS. HE **SAW GOD'S GRACE AS SO SUPERABUNDANT** THAT IN HIS GOSPEL HE FELT UNWORTHY TO SAY HARDLY ANYTHING ABOUT HIMSELF.

\*\* AND HE MENTIONS HIS PAST PROFESSION MOST LIKELY AS A HOLY REMINDER TO KEEP IN FRONT OF HIM WHAT HE HAD BEEN SAVED FROM.

\*\*\* AND FOR SOME OF US, THAT WERE NOT SAVED EARLY ON, GOING BACK TO A HALL OF SHAME IS GOOD TO HELP US HAVE PROPER PERSPECTIVE, NOT LIVING IN THE PAST, BUT LEARNING FROM IT AND THANKING GOD IN WHAT HE DELIVERED US FROM **SO WE DON'T** GET PUFFED UP, TO REMEMBER THE ROCK FROM WHICH WE HAVE BEEN HEWN.

\*\*\*\* AND MATTHEW WAS HARDLY PROUD OF WHAT HE HAD BEEN, BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE CHERISHED THE DESCRIPTION AS A TAX COLLECTOR AS A REMINDER OF HIS OWN GREAT **UNWORTHINESS AND OF CHRIST'S GREAT** GRACE.

4. HE SAW HIMSELF AS THE VILEST SINNER, SAVED ONLY BY THE INCOMPARABLE MERCY OF HIS LORD, MUCH LIKE PAUL, I TIMOTHY 1:15 (QUOTE IT).

\* AND MATTHEW FROM THAT PERSPECTIVE WAS THE SILENT DISCIPLE, UNTIL THE HOLY SPIRIT LED HIM TO PICK UP HIS PEN AND WRITE THE OPENING BOOK OF THE N.T., 28 POWERFUL CHAPTERS ON THE MAJESTY, MIGHT AND GLORY OF THE KING OF KINGS.

\*\* NOW ONE LAST THING ABOUT MATTHEW AND **WE'LL MOVE ON. NOT ONLY WAS HE A MAN OF HUMILITY AND HAD A GREAT BURDEN FOR THE LOST, ALSO HE WAS A MAN OF FAITH.**

\*\*\* NOW YOU MAY BE THINKING, RAY, WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT? WELL, WHEN MATTHEW GOT UP FROM HIS TAX TABLE TO FOLLOW JESUS, HE BURNED HIS BRIDGES BEHIND HIM, VOCATIONALLY SPEAKING.

\*\*\*\* FOR YOU SEE TAX COLLECTING WAS A LUCRATIVE OPERATION, AND MANY OPPORTUNISTS WERE DOUBTLESSLY EAGER TO **TAKE MATTHEW'S PLACE.**

5. AND ONCE HE FORSOOK HIS PRIVILEGED POSITION, THE ROMAN OFFICIALS WOULD NOT HAVE GRANTED IT TO HIM AGAIN. SO HE NOT ONLY LEFT A GREAT PAYING JOB, BUT WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN TO IT AGAIN!

\* NOW THE DISCIPLES WHO WERE FISHERMEN COULD ALWAYS RETURN TO THEIR PROFESSION, AS SOME OF THEM DID FOR A SHORT WHILE **AFTER CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION, BUT THERE** COULD BE NO RETURNING TO TAX COLLECTING FOR MATTHEW.

\*\* MATTHEW FACED THE TRUE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP BEFORE ANY OF THE OTHER DISCIPLES. IT COST MATTHEW TO FOLLOW THE LORD.

\*\*\* HE SET ASIDE A LOT OF MONEY, JOB SECURITY AND POSITION FOR THE KINGDOM. AND THAT IS A CHALLENGE FOR BELIEVERS TODAY IN THE PURSUIT OF MORE MONEY AND JOB SECURITY.

\*\*\*\* FOR COMPANIES ARE DEMANDING MORE OF THEIR EMPLOYEES - TIME WISE, AND SOMETIMES PROMOTIONS AND MORE MONEY MEAN MUCH MORE TIME. TIME AWAY FROM FAMILY AND TIME THAT COULD BE USED MORE EFFECTIVELY FOR THE KINGDOM. DISCERNMENT IS A GREAT NEED, MORE IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER.

6. AND IT SEEMS TO ALWAYS GO BACK TO THE MATTHEW 6:33 FILTER AND NOT BEING ENTANGLED WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE, QUOTE MATTHEW 6:33, II TIMOTHY 2:3&4, I CORINTHIANS 15:58 AND COL. 3:1&2. BELOVED, THE BOTTOM LINE IS NOT MONEY FOR THE CHRISTIAN AND POSITION BUT OUR PURPOSE. WHY ARE WE HERE? I CORINTHIANS 10:31.

\* AND WHAT A CHALLENGE THAT IS, WELL MATTHEW TOOK THE CHALLENGE AND PASSED FOR HE WAS A MAN OF FAITH, FORSAKING WEALTH AND POSITION THAT HE COULD NEVER RETURN TO AND WAS A MAN OF HUMILITY WHO HAD A BURDEN FOR HIS FORMER FRIENDS. MATTHEW WAS TRULY AN EXAMPLE, WHICH LEADS US TO JAMES THE SON OF ALPHAEUS, FOR WE COVERED THOMAS LAST SUNDAY.

## II. JAMES THE SON OF ALPHAEUS

A. NOW THIS JAMES IS DISTINGUISHED FROM THE OTHER APOSTLE JAMES, THE SON OF ZEBEDEE AND THE BROTHER OF JOHN AS THE SON OF ALPHAEUS.

\* AND THIS WOULD ALSO DISTINGUISH HIM FROM ANOTHER JAMES IN SCRIPTURE WHO WAS THE HALF BROTHER OF JESUS.

\*\* SO THIS JAMES WAS THE SON OF ALPHEUS.  
**NOW IT'S INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT**  
MATTHEW, WHO WAS ALSO CALLED LEVI, THE  
APOSTLE I JUST TALKED ABOUT, WAS ALSO THE  
SON OF ALPHEUS IN MARK 2:14 WHICH  
SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY THAT MATTHEW  
AND JAMES WERE BROTHERS.

\*\*\* MARK 2:14 SAYS: AS HE PASSED BY, HE SAW  
LEVI (MATTHEW) THE SON OF ALPHEUS  
SITTING IN THE TAX BOOTH, AND HE SAID TO  
HIM, **"FOLLOW ME!"** AND HE GOT UP AND  
FOLLOWED HIM.

- BUT THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER POSSIBILITY,  
AND THAT IS THIS JAMES MAY HAVE BEEN A  
COUSIN OF JESUS.

\*\*\*\* FOR THE NAME CLOPAS (CLO-PAS OR KLE-O-  
FAS) **WAS A FORM OF ALPHEUS, AND IF JESUS'**  
**MOTHER'S SISTER, MARY THE WIFE OF CLOPAS**  
**(JOHN 19:25) WAS JAMES' MOTHER, HE WOULD**  
**HAVE BEEN JESUS' FIRST COUSIN** – MARY THE  
WIFE OF ALPHEUS.



1. AND THAT POSSIBILITY IS ALSO SUPPORTED BY MARK 15:40 WHICH TELLS US THAT THE MOTHER OF THIS JAMES WAS NAMED MARY.

\* MARK 15:40 SAYS: THERE WERE ALSO SOME WOMEN LOOKING ON FROM A DISTANCE, AMONG WHOM WERE MARY MAGDALENE, AND MARY THE MOTHER OF JAMES THE LESS AND JOSES, AND SALOME.

\*\* SO IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WAS BOTH **MATTHEW'S BROTHER AND JESUS' COUSIN. IN EITHER CASE OR BOTH, THIS JAMES' LOW PROFILE TESTIFIES TO HIS HUMILITY, SINCE THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT HE TRIED TO TAKE PERSONAL ADVANTAGE OF ANY SUCH RELATIONSHIP.**

\*\*\* NOW THE ONLY OTHER THING WE KNOW ABOUT THIS JAMES IS HE IS CALLED, JAMES THE LESS IN MARK 15:40.

\*\*\*\* AND THE GREEK WORD FOR LESS IS THE WORD FROM WHICH WE GET OUR ENGLISH WORD MICRO, WHICH MEANS LITTLE, LEAST OR SMALL.

\*\*\*\*\* AND THIS GREEK WORD CAN BE USED FOR SIZE, LIKE SMALL IN STATURE, OR WITH AGE MEANING YOUNGER OR IN RANK OR INFLUENCE.

2. SO IT MAY HAVE BEEN THAT THIS JAMES WAS SMALLER IN SIZE THAN THE OTHER JAMES THE APOSTLE, OR YOUNGER IN AGE THAN HIM OR NOT HAVING AS MUCH INFLUENCE AS JAMES THE SON OF ZEBEDEE WHOM WAS A PART OF THE INNER CIRCLE.

\* AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT THIS JAMES WAS JUST A SMALL YOUNG GUY WITH A PERSONALITY THAT WAS NOT PARTICULARLY POWERFUL.

**\*\* AND IF THAT'S THE THOUGHT WITH JAMES THE LESS, IT'S ENCOURAGING TO KNOW THAT THE LORD DOESN'T DEPEND UPON SUPERSTARS, ISN'T IT?**

\*\*\* I MEAN THE LORD USES ORDINARY PEOPLE TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS. NOT EVERYONE HAS TO BE A PETER TO BE USED BY THE LORD IN A GREAT WAY.

\*\*\*\* FOR JAMES THE SON OF ALPHEUS, JAMES THE LESS WAS AN APOSTLE USED GREATLY IN THE CAUSE OF CHRIST IN ESTABLISHING HIS CHURCH AS ALL THE APOSTLES WERE. AND **BEYOND THAT WE DON'T KNOW A WHOLE LOT** ABOUT HIM WHICH LEADS US TO THE THIRD APOSTLE WE WILL LOOK AT TODAY, WHICH IS SIMON THE ZEALOT.

### III. SIMON THE ZEALOT

A. NOW IN THE NAS AND THE NIV, IN ALL 4 LISTS OF THE APOSTLES IN MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND ACTS, SIMON IS ALWAYS CALLED THE ZEALOT RATHER THAN THE CANAANITE WHICH IS CONSIDERED BY MANY SCHOLARS NOT A GOOD TRANSLATION.

\* AND ALL WE KNOW ABOUT THIS SIMON, **DISTINGUISHED FROM SIMON PETER IS HE'S** CALLED THE ZEALOT, EVEN IN THE KJV, NKJV AND ESV IN LUKE AND ACTS.

\*\* NOW THAT CAN MEAN ONE OF TWO THINGS. NO. 1 HE WAS A ZEALOUS PERSON IN HIS WORK FOR THE LORD, COMMITTED WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO HIS LORD, AND VERY ENTHUSIASTIC IN HIS SERVICE FOR HIS LORD, A KIND OF PASSIONATE FIERY ZEAL.

\*\*\* OR NO. 2 ZEALOT MAY HAVE SIGNIFIED HIS FORMER MEMBERSHIP IN THE RADICAL PARTY OF ZEALOTS WHO LATER ON CAME INTO VIEW, AFTER CHRIST, WHOSE MEMBERS WERE DETERMINED TO THROW OFF THE YOKE OF ROME BY FORCE.

\*\*\*\* FOR THERE WERE BASICALLY FOUR DOMINANT GROUPS WITHIN JUDAISM: THE PHARISEES, THE SADDUCEES, THE ESSENES AND THE ZEALOTS.

1. NOW THE ZEALOTS WERE THE LAST OF THE PARTIES TO EMERGE, BUT THEIR ROOTS APPEAR TO BE TRACED TO THE TIMES OF CHRIST BUT AGAIN BLOOMING INTO FULL FRUITION LATER.

\* NOW THE ZEALOTS WERE THE MOST RADICAL WING IN JUDAISM. THEY HATED ROME AND WERE WILLING TO DIE IN GETTING OUT FROM UNDER ROMAN DOMINATION. THEY WERE REBELS WHOM DESPISED ROME. THEY HAD AN IMMOVABLE RESOLUTION TO BE FREE THAT WOULD UNDERGO ANY PAIN.

\*\* NOW IF SIMON WAS EARLIER A PART OF THIS PARTY, HE MUST HAVE BEEN A MAN WITH A TREMENDOUS PASSION AND CAPACITY FOR ZEAL.

\*\*\* AND HE MUST HAVE BEEN A FIREBALL WHEN IT CAME TO THE WORK OF THE LORD, BECAUSE HE HAD FOUND THE TRUE MESSIAH AND WAS INVOLVED NOW IN A GREATER CAUSE, THE ULTIMATE CAUSE.

\*\*\*\* **AND I'LL COME BACK TO SIMON THE ZEALOT IN MY WRAP UP TODAY, BUT FOR NOW WE'LL GO TO APOSTLE NO. 4 TODAY, JUDAS THE SON OF JAMES.**

#### IV. JUDAS, THE SON OF JAMES

A. NOW JUDAS THE SON OF JAMES IS CALLED THADDAEUS IN MATTHEW 10:3 AND IN THE KJV IS CALLED LEBBAEUS WHOSE SURNAME WAS THADDAEUS IN THE KJV AND THE NKJV. AND HE IS ALSO CALLED JUDAS THE SON OF JAMES IN OUR TEXT AND ACTS 1:13.

\* AND ALL THESE NAMES ARE TALKING ABOUT THE SAME GUY AS MANY JEWISH PEOPLE HAD A COUPLE OF NAMES LIKE SIMON PETER, MATTHEW LEVI, ETC.

\*\* PLUS SOME INDIVIDUALS HAD NICKNAMES. SO THADDAEUS, LEBBAEUS AND JUDAS, NOT ISCARIOT, ARE NAMES FOR THE SAME APOSTLE.

\*\*\* NOW THE ONLY THING WE KNOW FOR SURE ABOUT THIS APOSTLE IS FOUND IN JOHN 14:22 WHERE HE ASKS JESUS A QUESTION, **AND WE'LL** READ JOHN 14:18-24 TO GET THE CONTEXT. AND ON THE SCREEN IS JOHN 14:18-24 WHICH SAYS:

\*\*\*\* JOHN 14:18 - **"I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU AS ORPHANS; I WILL COME TO YOU.**

V. 19 - AFTER A LITTLE WHILE THE WORLD WILL NO LONGER SEE ME, BUT YOU WILL SEE ME; BECAUSE I LIVE, YOU WILL LIVE ALSO.

V. 20 - IN THAT DAY YOU WILL KNOW THAT I AM IN MY FATHER, AND YOU IN ME, AND I IN YOU.

V. 21 - HE WHO HAS MY COMMANDMENTS AND KEEPS THEM IS THE ONE WHO LOVES ME; AND HE WHO LOVES ME WILL BE LOVED BY MY FATHER, AND I WILL LOVE HIM AND WILL **DISCLOSE MYSELF TO HIM.**"

V. 22 - JUDAS, THE SON OF JAMES (NOT ISCARIOT) **SAID TO HIM, "LORD, WHAT THEN HAS HAPPENED THAT YOU ARE GOING TO DISCLOSE YOURSELF TO US AND NOT TO THE WORLD?"**

V. 23 - JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, **"IF ANYONE LOVES ME, HE WILL KEEP MY WORD; AND MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM, AND WE WILL COME TO HIM AND MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM.**

V. 24 - HE WHO DOES NOT LOVE ME DOES NOT KEEP MY WORDS; AND THE WORD WHICH YOU **HEAR IS NOT MINE, BUT THE FATHER'S WHO SENT ME. I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU AS ORPHANS; I WILL COME TO YOU.**



1. NOW THE WORD DISCLOSE, MANIFEST OR SHOW TRIGGERED JUDAS LEBBAEUS **THADDAEUS TO RESPOND TO JESUS' COMMENT.** JUDAS **THADDAEUS DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT** THE LORD WAS SAYING, SO JESUS REPEATED THE PRINCIPLE AGAIN IN VV. 23&24.

\* AND BASICALLY THE POINT JESUS WAS **MAKING WAS THIS: "THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO** WILL BE ABLE TO PERCEIVE ME ARE THE ONES **WHO LOVE ME."**

\*\* BUT JUDAS THE SON OF JAMES WAS ONLY THINKING OF OUTWARD, VISIBLE DISCLOSURE, AND HE WONDERED HOW JESUS COULD MANIFEST HIMSELF TO THOSE WHO LOVED HIM WITHOUT ALSO MANIFESTING HIMSELF TO EVERYONE ELSE.

\*\*\* AND LIKE MOST JEWS OF HIS DAY, JUDAS THE SON OF JAMES WAS LOOKING FOR CHRIST TO ESTABLISH AN EARTHLY KINGDOM.

\*\*\*\* HOW, HE WONDERED, COULD THE MESSIAH SIT ON THE THRONE OF DAVID AND RULE THE ENTIRE EARTH WITHOUT MANIFESTING HIMSELF TO HIS SUBJECTS?

2. JUDAS MAY ALSO HAVE WONDERED WHY JESUS WOULD DISCLOSE HIMSELF TO A SMALL GROUP OF INSIGNIFICANT MEN, LIKE THE APOSTLES, AND NOT TO THE GREAT RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN JERUSALEM AND THE POWERFUL POLITICAL LEADERS IN ROME.

\* NOW JESUS DID NOT REBUKE JUDAS FOR HIS MISUNDERSTANDING, WHICH HE SINCERELY AND HUMBLY EXPRESSED. IT GAVE JESUS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY HIS TEACHING.

**\*\* AND THE LORD'S TEACHING WAS, "THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO WILL BE ABLE TO PERCEIVE ME ARE THE ONES WHO LOVE ME, FOR THE ONES WHO DON'T LOVE DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT OR WHERE MY WORDS COME FROM."**

\*\*\* IN OTHER WORDS, MANIFESTATION IS **LIMITED TO RECEPTION. IT'S LIKE THE WAVES** OF A RADIO STATION. SOMEONE CAN SEND THE SIGNAL THROUGH A TRANSMITTER, THE RADIO WAVES, BUT UNTIL YOU TURN THE RADIO **STATION ON TO THAT STATION YOU CAN'T** RECEIVE THE PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH THE RADIO WAVES ARE ALL AROUND YOU. THEY ARE **THERE, YOU JUST CAN'T PICK THEM UP.**

\*\*\*\* AND CHRIST WAS NOT AT THAT TIME ESTABLISHING HIS EARTHLY KINGDOM, AND THE DISCLOSURE HE WAS THEN MAKING WAS OF HIS DIVINITY AND AUTHORITY AS SPIRITUAL LORD AND SAVIOR.

3. AND THAT DISCLOSURE CAN ONLY BE RECOGNIZED BY THOSE WHO TRULY KNOW HIM AND LOVE HIM, AND THE GENUINENESS OF TRULY KNOWING AND LOVING CHRIST IS EVIDENCED BY OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD. MANIFESTATION IS LIMITED TO RECEPTION. QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 2:14, JOHN 14:15 AND I JOHN 5:3.

\* SO JESUS SAID TO JUDAS - THADDAEUS, I CAN ONLY MANIFEST MYSELF TO PEOPLE WHOSE RECEIVERS ARE ON, PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME AND SHOW THEIR LOVE BY OBEDIENCE.

\*\* AND JUDAS **THADDAEUS'** QUESTION MAY COMMUNICATE 3 THINGS: NO. 1 HIS CONCERN FOR CHRIST IN BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE KING, HE WANTED TO SEE JESUS EXALTED AND RULE.

\*\*\* NO. 2 HIS HUMILITY, SAYING IN ESSENCE WHY WOULD YOU MANIFEST YOURSELF TO US AND NOT THE WHOLE WORLD? **WE'RE JUST A BUNCH OF NOBODIES**, WHAT ABOUT THE IMPORTANT PEOPLE?

\*\*\*\* AND NO. 3 HIS COURAGE. FOR HE MIGHT **HAVE BEEN SAYING, IF IT'S TIME FOR THE KINGDOM LORD THEN LETS GO FOR IT! SHOW YOUR POWER TO THE WHOLE WORLD AND LET'S GET ON WITH IT LORD, WHATEVER THE COST. I'LL DO WHATEVER I NEED TO DO.**

4. AND LET ME SAY THAT THAT IS JUST **SPECULATION, BUT THAT'S ALL WE KNOW** ABOUT JUDAS THADDAEUS FROM SCRIPTURE.

\* BUT THERE IS SOMETHING REVEALED ABOUT JUDAS-THADDAEUS FROM TRADITION WHICH IS NOT ALWAYS RELIABLE. AND THAT IS JUDAS **THADDAEUS' SYMBOL, IN OLD CHURCH HISTORY** BOOKS IS A BIG CLUB, BECAUSE TRADITION SAYS HE WAS BEATEN TO DEATH FOR HIS LORD WITH A CLUB.

\*\* **AND IF THAT'S TRUE, IT WOULD REVEAL HIS** COURAGE FOR THE LORD AND THAT HE WAS A MARTYR. WHICH LEADS US TO OUR WRAP-UP FOR TODAY, **AND WE'LL RETURN TO MATTHEW** AND SIMON THE ZEALOT.

AND MY APPLICATION IS: (1) IF SIMON WAS A PART OF THE SECT CALLED THE ZEALOTS, WHAT A PAIR HE AND MATTHEW WERE.

\* FOR THE REALITY OF THE MATTER IS, IF SIMON WOULD HAVE MET MATTHEW IN ANY OTHER COMPANY THAN IN THE COMPANY OF JESUS HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE STUCK A DAGGER IN HIM. (AND YOU MIGHT BE THINKING RAY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?)

\*\* WELL ONE CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE INITIAL FEELINGS OF MATTHEW AND SIMON, TWO OPPONENTS FILLED WITH HATE AND RESENTMENT TOWARD ONE ANOTHER PRIOR TO THEIR MEETING CHRIST.

\*\*\* HOWEVER, NOW IN CHRIST THEY SHARED FOOD AND SLEPT BY THE SAME FIRE AS THEY TRAVELED THE ROADS IN THE SMALL BAND OF APOSTLES.

\*\*\*\* AND THIS IS A TESTIMONY TO THE DIFFERENCE JESUS CAN MAKE IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WHEN THEY FOLLOW HIM, QUOTE II CORINTHIANS 5:17.

(2) NOW IN CHRIST, MEN WHO HATED EACH OTHER LEARN TO LOVE EACH OTHER WHEN THEY BOTH LOVE JESUS CHRIST.

\* AND WHAT A DIFFERENCE JESUS MADE IN THE LIVES OF THE **11 MEN THAT WE'VE STUDIED** AND HOW HE USED THEM.

**\*\* FOR THE ELEVEN WE'VE STUDIED WERE** INDIVIDUALS WHO DEMONSTRATED WEAKNESSES, PERSONALITY QUIRKS AND PROBLEMS TYPICAL OF ANY PEOPLE.

\*\*\* YET IN CHRIST THEY BECAME A TEAM OF EFFECTIVE WITNESSES FOR HIM. CHRIST WOULD CHOOSE A HATED TAX COLLECTOR - MATTHEW, A ZEALOT - SIMON, ONE WHO WAS CALLED LESS - JAMES AND THADDAEUS - A MAN WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT, BUT USE THEM IN HIS MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM.

\*\*\*\* AND BELOVED, IF THEY CAN BE CHANGED AND USED, SO CAN WE. THE QUESTION IS ARE WE?

(3) DO WE TRULY KNOW JESUS? AND IF THE ANSWER IS YES, ARE WE AVAILABLE?

\* BELIEVER, I HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO BE ENCOURAGED BY THE KIND OF PEOPLE JESUS USED AND WILL USE. PEOPLE LIKE THE APOSTLES.

**\*\* BUT IF YOU DON'T TRULY KNOW JESUS CHRIST, BE ASSURED THAT IF YOU TURN TO HIM FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS TODAY, HE WILL FORGIVE YOU, SAVE YOU AND CHANGE YOU.**

\*\*\* THE CHANGE STARTED FOR ALL THE 11 WE HAVE LOOKED AT WITH CONVERSION, SALVATION, FORGIVENESS WHICH COMES THROUGH REPENTANT FAITH IN JESUS, TURNING TO HIM AND TRUSTING HIM ALONE **FOR SALVATION. IF YOU DON'T TRULY KNOW JESUS, TURN TO HIM TODAY, THE ONLY SAVIOR FROM SIN WHO WILL RADICALLY CHANGE YOU.**

**(LET'S PRAY)**