

**Series:** Teaming up with Christ

**Title:** Simon, the Zealous Apostle

**Text:** (Matt 10:4, Mark 3:18, Luke 6:15, Acts 1:13)

## ***2 Simons in the list of apostles:***

Simon called Peter, Always 1st on the list

Simon called Zelotes, Always 2nd to last on the list.

Judas Iscariot, called *Poser* is always *last* on the list.

Amazing so little is said about some of the apostles.

Very little is said about Simon Zelotes.

He is mentioned 4x in Scripture.

He is just on the list, nothing less & nothing more.

Yet, the Lord had a reason for choosing him.

## **I. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT HIM?**

**A.** Matthew & Mark call him Simon the Canaanite:  
(Matt 10:4)(Mark 3:18) His birthplace was in Canaan

**B.** Luke calls him Simon *Zelotes* (Lk 6:15)(Act 1:13)

1. That is all the Bible says about Simon.

2. Some say: Canaanite doesn't refer to his birthplace but simply means *Zealous*.

3. Both Canaanite/Zelotes meaning *Zealous*.

## **II. Where Did He Get the Name "ZELOTES"?**

**A. Josephus:** A Jewish patriotic party founded about 20 years before the ministry of Jesus.

**Their Name:** They were known as Zealots.

**Their Mission:** To resist Roman aggression.

**Their Mindset:** The End Justifies the Means.

**Their Methods:** Violence, Murder, Sabotage.

They used violence in their hatred of the Romans

This violence provoked the Roman war in 70AD

**Truth:** Hating the Jews, makes you an enemy of God

## ***B. Zelotes identified Simon with their party.***

He believed in the freedom of Israel at any cost.

He was extremely zealous for his country.

He was a freedom fighter.

## **III. Why Did He Become A Disciple?**

### ***A. No one knows for sure.***

Most Politicians leave one party for another today,  
not out of zeal to serve Christ, *but to get elected*.

All politicians are attracted by popular people.

Jesus was attracting large Crowds.

Simon might have started following Jesus as a recruitment opportunity.

Jesus knew about Simon's feelings towards the Roman government.

Jesus' Messages changed Simon's heart.

Jesus knew he would teach Simon.

Jesus knows why He chose Simon.

### ***B. Simon hated Caesar but loved Christ.***

Simon knew God hated workers of iniquity: (Ps 5:5)

**C. *Jesus chose him, probably b/c of his energy for getting things done.***

Most preachers are lazy and get very little done.

**D. *The cause of Christ requires all of our zeal.***

Hell is Real, Death is Certain, His return Imminent.

This is not a Game, but a War.

There is no Compromising with the devil.

**E. *Zeal w/o the Knowledge of the Word of God is very dangerous. Easily Punked.***

Jesus would teach Simon the Scriptures.

He want Simon's energy to be used right (Rm 10:1-4)

**F. *Variety could've motivated Christ chose Simon.***

The church is made up of different personalities, but it should still be in one accord for one purpose.

I wonder how Simon and Matthew got along?

Matthew collected taxes for Rome b/c he was called.

Simon had fought against the Romans,

Now he & Matthew were on the same team!

Simon & Matthew got along b/c they were both new creatures in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17).

We should have no trouble getting along with our christian brothers/sisters either.

If they could get along with each other with such diverse pasts, why can't everyone get along in the same church today?

(Prov 13:10) *Only by pride cometh contention, but with the well advised is wisdom.*

***Somebody or both bodies have a pride problem.***

**G. *Maybe Jesus wanted someone who was a fanatic.***

People give toward their Passions.

***What are YOU Passionate about?***

I'd rather have ten maniacs of Gadara than ten thousand lukewarm Christians (Rev 3:15-16)  
Simon died by crucifixion, the same way as Jesus!

**IV. LESSONS WE CAN LEARN**

**A. *God wants every Christian to be zealous for Him.***

(Titus 2:14)(I Cor 15: 58)(Matt 6:21)

What did you put your effort into this week?

Will pay off in Eternity?

**B. *Our zeal can wane*** (Revelation 2:14, 3:19)

It is like a Christmas toy when the new wears off.

We wash the new car when we get it; & six months later, it looks like the city dump.

(Gal 5:7) *Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*

**C. *Our Zeal influences others:*** (II Cor 9:2)

**D. *Zeal can be misused:***

(Gal 1:6-7) *and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*

(Acts 22:3-4) *We can be Sincerely Wrong*  
(Gal 1:14) *zealous of the traditions of my fathers.*

*Why did they recruit College kids to protest Trump?*  
*Why did they pay them, & then not bail them out when*  
*they got arrested?*  
They were Punked!

**E. Zeal should have knowledge.** Zeal w/o knowledge  
is like a man stumbling around in the dark.

(Heb 5:13-14) Milk/Meat = Discernment  
*To Know when you are being Punked!*

**F. Sometimes it's OK to have very little said about you.** John the Baptist said Christ must increase, but I must decrease. God should get all the glory.

**G. Do you have the same zeal for the Lord after you got saved as you did for the devil b/4 you got saved?**

**H. Church members will be in unity if the church is doctrinally straight.**  
If it is not, and you can't change it; then leave it.

**I. Even though Simon is mentioned but four times, he is still part of the Word of God.**  
We should never leave the Word of God.

**Their Name:** Zealots.

What Name are you called by? (2 Chron 7:14)  
(Acts 11:26) *Called Christians 1st @ Antioch.*  
Who is it you Identify with?

**Their Mission:** To resist Roman aggression.

**What is your God given Mission?** To be entertained?  
To get what I want, as much as I want, When I want it  
Is your purpose higher than just a Cow?

**Their Mindset:** The End Justifies the Means.

**What is your Mindset?**

Are you more important than Christ?  
What if getting What you want, when you want  
it, means hurting someone else?

**Bullying:** Making myself feel better by belittling &  
hurting someone else. ***Aren't you just a bully?***

**Their Methods:** Violence, Murder, Sabotage.

This violence provoked the Roman war in 70AD  
Majority of the Jews were Slaughtered/Enslaved

**What are your methods?**

Are their lines you will not cross?  
Drugs, Alcohol, Flirting, Peer Pressure?

**B. Zelotes identified Simon with their party.**

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