

The 12 Who Walked with Jesus: Simon and Thaddaeus

Luke 6

“Simon the Zealot”

1. Textual information

- “Simon the **Canaanite**” (Matt. 10:4; Mark 3:18)
- Refers to his **zeal** or intense **passion**
- “Zealot” is a **political** affiliation
- Historian Josephus identifies four primary persuasions among

the Jews:

- **Pharisees**

- Religious **fundamentalists**
- Meticulous followers of the law

- **Saducees**

- Religious **liberals**

- **Essenes**

- Reclusive desert clan
- Focus on study of the law and severe self-discipline

- **Zealots**

- Despised Rome and sought ways to overthrow Rome. Best

described as militant outlaws. Most famous zealot is

Barabbas.

2. Total transformation

Simon reminds us of **Saul of Tarsus**

3. The application

- All can be **saved**

- All can **serve**

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“Thaddaeus”

1. His **identity** (the Apostle with three names)

“**Judas**” (Lk. 6:16; John 14:22; Acts 1:13)

- Meaning “**Jehovah leads**”

“**Thaddaeus**” (Matt 10:3; Mk. 3:18)

- Greek form of his Hebrew name

- Represents his family identity or “last” name

“**Lebbaeus**” (Matt. 10:3)

- Nickname meaning “the **heart**,” also

“**courage**”

2. His **obscurity**

- Simon and Thaddaeus are both “lesser lights”

(**Herbert Lockyer**)

3. His **humility**

4. His **curiosity**

- Jesus **heard** his “prayer”
- Jesus **answered** his question

5. His **ministry**

The traditional Apostolic symbol of Judas Lebbaeus Thaddaeus is a **club**, because tradition says he was **clubbed** to death for his faith.