

# The Had Been With Jesus - The Sons of Thunder -

Luke – the Acts of Jesus

Luke 6:14c,d

01-13/27-2013

and 02-03-2013

02-03-2013

They Had Been With Jesus

The Sons of Thunder, pt 2b of 2b

# **JOHN, A SON OF ZEBEDEE**

# Truth – Wrapped Up in Love

- John's life was marked by his commitment to finding, following and fighting for the truth.
- Jesus helped him to see his need to demonstrate his connection to the truth by his commitment to love.
- In John, as in Jesus' first coming, we see truth, wrapped up in love.
  - Cf. 1 Co 13; 1 Jn 2:7-10; 3:1-3; 4:7-21
  - True love for others begins with a pure love for God – 1 Jn 5:1-3

# From Love of Truth to True Love

- Looking 'round the Corner – Lk 8:28-9:49
  - Transfiguration -> Deliverance of Demon possessed boy -> Arguing about Who is Greatest -> Jesus' Rebuke -> Confession
  - Still not quite there – “...do you want us to call down fire from heaven...?” 9:54
- Later, known as the Apostle of Love
  - “Truth” – 45 x's
  - Used the word “love” > 80 times in his writings

# “Love”

- God is love – 1 Jn 4:8
- The Father loves the Son – Jn 3:35; 5:20 and vice versa – 14:31
- God loves all people in general – 3:16
- God loves Christ’s disciples in particular – 14:21*ff.*
- Jesus loves all who believe in him – 13:1
- His voluntary and sacrificial death is the ultimate example of Jesus’ love – 15:13; 1 Jn 3:16
- Jesus’ followers are to love one another – 13:35; 15:12

# “Love” cont.

- God’s true followers will love Jesus – Jn 8:42
  - This love is demonstrated by obedience – 14:15, 21, 23*ff.*;  
15:10; 1 Jn 2:5; 5:3
- God demonstrated His love for us by adopting us into His family – 1 Jn 3:1
- True love is manifested in actions – 3:18
  - And is a mark of true salvation – 4:7*f.*, 20
- The Supreme act of love was from God, in Christ, our propitiation for sin – 4:9*f.*
  - It removes the fear of punishment – 4:18
- Love is the motive behind God’s discipline of believers – Rev 3:19

# John, After His Time With Jesus

- Closely associated with Peter – Ac 3:1-11; 4:13-20; 8:14-25
- Pillar of the Church – Gal 2:9
- Overseer of Ephesus, Asia Minor
  - Fled a bathhouse because “the enemy of truth (Cerinthus) is within.” *Polycarp*, Bishop of Smyrna, disciple of John
  - Entered a camp of robbers to bring the backslidden leader to repentance and true faith. *Clement of Alexandria*.
- Remained committed to Love & Truth – 2 Jn

# Drinking From Jesus' Cup of Suffering

- John's personal cup of suffering – Mk 10:38
  - Only Disciple to witness to Jesus' trials *and* crucifixion
  - Jn 18:15; 19:26
  - Cared for his Aunt Mary, in Jerusalem, until she died
- Elder at Ephesus for many decades
  - Boiled in oil under Domitian (2<sup>nd</sup> Persecution) at the Latin Gate (still extant today) – 92 AD
    - Attested by Tertullian (160-225 AD)
    - Commemorative chapel built on the site – 492 AD
      - *San Giovanni a Porta Latina*



# Faithful Witness to the End

- To cover the fact that he failed to kill John, Domitian exiled him to Patmos
  - Jesus revealed the times of the end to him at Patmos
  - Pardoned & returned to Ephesus
    - During time of Nerva (94-96 AD)
    - Eusebius (263-339 AD) called him Pertinax
- In his old age (post 94 AD) had to be carried to church, where he constantly exhorted the believers to love one another: “It is the Lord’s command, and if only this be done, it is enough.”
- Last disciple to die, only one to die of old age (99?)
  - Died during the reign of Trajan (98-117AD)
- One more favorite word, “witness” μαρτυρῶ μαρτυρία, <75 x’s