

They Had Been With Jesus
– Simon, the Zealot
& Judas, the Son of James –

Luke – The Acts of Jesus

Luke 6:15d

04-07-2013

Introduction

FOUR MAJOR FACTIONS OF JUDEA, OR MAYBE FIVE

SADDUCEES

- Aristocrats, the class of wealth
- Religious Liberals
 - Denied the supernatural
 - Modernists
- In charge of the Temple
 - “We are the Priests...we have the proper interpretation of the Law.”
 - Considered themselves descendant of Zadok (Solomon’s High Priest)
- Shared in the Sannhedrin
 - Court system of Jews
 - 23 member courts in several regions
 - 71 members in the Full Court at Jerusalem
- Deists and skeptics of Jesus’ age
 - Disappear from history after destruction of Temple, 70 AD

PHARISEES

- Zealous for the keeping of the Law/Torah
- Representative of the ὄι-πολοί (common people)
- Fundamentalists of Jesus' time
 - “We are of the line of the prophets...we have the proper understanding of the Law.”
 - After 70 AD (destruction of the Temple), they became the founders of modern Judaism
- Anxious for the coming of the Messiah
 - To throw off Roman control
 - Some recognized Jesus as the Messiah

HERODIANS

- Religiously associated with the Sadducees
- Politically associated with Herod and the Herodian dynasty
 - Wealthy class
 - Interested in keeping the peace, so that they might keep their place of prominence and influence
- Conspired with the Pharisees against Jesus
 - Mk 3:6; 12:13; 8:15; Mt 22:16; Lk 13:31*f.*; Ac 4:27
- Appeared to champion the idea that a Herodian dynasty would help prepare the country for the coming of the Messiah

ESSENES

- Only mentioned by Josephus, Philo and Pliny the Elder
- Desert dwellers
- A break-off group from the Zadokites (Sadducees)
- Ascetics
 - Voluntary poverty, abstinence, celibacy
- Religious mystics of the day

ZEALOTS

- Founded in 6 AD, during Quirinius' taxation (prior to the taxation under Augustus) by Judas of Galilee (Ac 5:37)
 - Augustus' taxation done after the Jewish manner
 - Quirinius taxation done after the Roman manner, taxing the people as being subservient to Rome
- Political descendants of the Maccabean revolt
- Pharisaic in their religious views and standards
- Absolutely and totally committed to a Theocracy
 - Desired to throw off all vestiges of Roman occupation and overlordship

Pharisees vs Zealots

Pharisees

- Strict adherence to Torah
- Willing to compromise politically if they felt it would be beneficial
- Tie up burdens to put on the backs of others, while unwilling to help them
- Paying Roman taxes – distasteful

Zealots

- Strict adherence to Torah
- No fear or torture, or death; either of their own, or of those they love.
- Look for ways to prove their devotion to God with their actions; no matter the cost
- Paying Roman taxes – treason against God

**OF SIMON, THE ZEALOT AND
LABBEUS THADDEUS (JUDAS, NOT ISCARIOT)**

Simon, the Zealot

- Cananaean, not Canaanite, or even from Cana
 - Καναανιος, Aramaic for Zealot (Mt 10:4; Mk 3:18)
 - Ζηλωτης, Greek for Zealot (some Gr MSS, Lk 6:15)
- Prior to meeting Jesus, he would have been quite willing to murder Matthew.
- Instead, embraced Jesus as the Messiah who must suffer first and conquer later.
- Traditions differ as to his later life:
 - Preached in Persia & Armenia, Middle East & Africa, some even have him preaching in Britain
 - Martyrdom: by crucifixion, or by being sawn in two.
- Willingly died for the One who came to fulfill the Law
 - Mt 5:17; Lk 24:44

Judas, Son of James

- Also called Lebbaeus (heart child) and Thaddeus (breast child). Youngest in his family.
 - ? Gentle, easily overawed/overpowered ?
- Asked one question worthy of being recorded:
 - “What then has happened that you are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?” Jn 14:22
 - Jesus’ answered that His Kingdom would first be established in the hearts of those who love Him.
- Later life:
 - Preached in Samaria, Syria, Mesopotamia and Libya
 - Eusebius claims Edessa (in Mes.) contained records of his healing of King Abgar or Edessa. (Archives were still available in the 4th cent., though later destroyed)
 - Martyrdom; clubbed to death? Possibly alongside of Simon, the Zealot