

JAMES, A SERVANT OF GOD

DAY I

“Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judah? Aren’t all His sisters with us? Where, then, did this Man get all these things?” Matthew 13:55-56

There we have it—a list of the siblings of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior, the Messiah! Listed first in the lineup is James, the author of the book we are studying. James, along with several the other siblings of Jesus, grew up in the same house with Messiah, the Savior of the world! They played, ate, slept, and worked together. It is probably safe to assume that Mary and Joseph told the kids who their oldest brother, Jesus, is. Wouldn’t you think believing and accepting Him as Savior would be a slam-dunk decision? No so! Not a single one of them believed Who He was until after His resurrection!

Read Psalm 69:8 What does this scripture tell about Jesus’ relationship with His family?

Read Isaiah 53:1-3 Has there ever been a time in your life that you would say you despised and did not esteem Jesus Christ? _____

Read Mark 3: 20-21 What did His brothers say was wrong with Jesus? _____

Read John 7:1-5 This passage comes after Jesus performed miracles and taught Who He was. Many of His disciples turned away from Him despite what they witnessed or what He said. Complete the following passage: “For even His _____ did not _____ in Him.” John 7:5

What is your reaction or thought after reading these words? _____

Do you wonder how anyone could not believe in Him if they walked beside Him and with Him? _____

And yet it happened just that way.

Now read John 6:44. What is the only way one can go to Jesus? _____

The thing is we sometimes have the audacity to think salvation or belief in Jesus is our own idea. Wrong! It is the Father's idea and His alone. Now we have the responsibility to accept or reject the Truth, but He must reveal the Truth to us.

When did James believe on Jesus as the Messiah? Read I Corinthians 15:1-7

Jesus made a promise to all of His disciples, past, present, and future. a Promise that enables us to walk in the victory that we are called to as His followers; the Promise that enables us to fulfill our purpose—to live to bring Him glory!

Read Luke 24:49; John 14:16, 17, and 26; John 15:26; Acts 1:1-8

Who did Jesus promise would come after Him? _____

What enables us as His children to be witnesses to Him-----to the end of the earth?

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive _____ when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.

It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to live the way James exhorts and instructs us to live: to live a life that is so strong in faith that the evidence is "good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in Him." Ephesians 2:8-10.

It is the only by the power of the Holy Spirit that James, the brother of Jesus, who rejected Him as Savior, later gave his all, his everything, and became a doulos, a bond-servant of his brother, his Messiah! May it be said of you, " _____ (your name) a bond-servant of Jesus Christ."