

Minor Festivals: St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles, October 28

Simon the Zealot is listed as an apostle in all four lists of the apostles in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts (see if you can find these lists in the Bible). Besides being listed with the apostles there is no other information given about him. He was a Zealot. This most likely meant he was a very patriotic Jew who worked for Jewish independence from the Roman Empire. His symbol is a Bible with a fish on top of it, displaying that he was a fisher of men. Tradition says he did mission work in Egypt, and later on in Persia, where he joined Jude in spreading the Gospel.

Jude was one of Jesus' four brothers. Could you imagine growing up with an older brother who was perfect and without sin? In Mark 3 we are told that Jesus went into a house and the crowd was so large that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they came to take charge of him, saying, "He is out of his mind." When they sent someone in to tell Jesus his family was there to get him, Jesus asked, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

In John 7 we learn his brothers had a wrong impression of Jesus. They thought he was seeking worldly glory and that he wanted to be a public figure. John tells us even his own brothers did not believe in him. All of this changed after Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from death and damnation and gloriously rose from the dead, displaying his power over hell, death, and the grave. After Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus' mother and brothers were gathered together with the Eleven apostles (Judas Iscariot had killed himself out of remorse for his betraying treachery). They had come to believe in Jesus as their spiritual brother, Savior, and Lord. That is the last we hear of Jesus' brothers, including Jude. However, God the Holy Spirit led Jude to write the book of Jude in the Bible, probably in the 70s or 80s A.D. He strongly warned against false teachers and "scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." His symbol is a ship, representing his missionary journeys.

In Christ's Church, there are those like Simon the Zealot—those who faithfully serve the Lord with no fanfare and yet make a huge impact in God's kingdom work. Some are like Jude who, at first thought Christians are out of their minds but, by the power of the Holy Spirit, come to faith and end up serving the Lord the rest of their lives, standing up for the truth. May God continue to supply his Church with Simons and Judes in each generation.

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (Jude 1:24-25 NIV)

Pastor Zuberbier

After sharing this devotion with your family, take the time to read Jude.

