

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE LIFE OF JESUS

RLJ-1705

JOHN S. TORELL

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PART 2: THE OPPOSITION JESUS FACED

SELECTING THE APOSTLES

After Jesus was rejected in Nazareth, He established Himself in a small city of Capernaum on the shore of Lake Galilee. It was at this time that He began to select the apostles. These were young, uneducated working men with families. With the exception of Judas Iscariot, these simple men would be molded into powerful preachers and change the world. **Matthew 4:13-17**

- ❖ Simon Peter and Andrew. **verses 18-20**
- ❖ James and John. **verses 21-22**
- ❖ Philip and Nathanael. **John 1:44-51**
- ❖ Matthew, also known as Levi. **Luke 5:27-32**

The New Testament chronicles the calling of these seven men but there is no record as to how the rest were called by Jesus.

Here is the total list of the 12 apostles:

1. Simon Peter
2. Andrew
3. James the son of Zebedee
4. John the son of Zebedee
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew (In three of the Gospels Nathanael is listed as Bartholomew, while John identifies him as Nathanael.)
7. Thomas
8. Matthew
9. James the son of Alphaeus
10. Lebbaeus Thaddaeus
11. Simon the Canaanite
12. Judas Iscariot (The surname Iscariot is Hebrew and means "a man of Kerioth," a city in Southern Judah.)

In addition to these twelve men, Jesus had another 70 other men who were given the same power as the original twelve. **Luke 10:1-9, 17-21**

Jesus also had a group of women went along with him and the men, cooking, cleaning clothing, and taking care of the practical needs of the men. When we examine the



numbers listed in the Book of Acts, we find that Jesus had 39 women, including his mother, who followed Him on His travels. **Acts 1:10-15**

CONFRONTING JUDAISM

Most Christians have never studied the setting in Judah at the time of Jesus. It was a melting pot involving a corrupt Roman occupying government, the high priest's family, the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Herodians.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH PRIEST

Jesus was incarnated into a human body and began His ministry as the Redeemer of the human race at the age of thirty and ran afoul of the perverted religion known as Judaism. Caiaphas was the High priest, and not only was he doctrinally corrupt, he had also turned the temple ceremonies into a money making enterprise, fleecing the people who came to worship and sacrifice.

People were not allowed to bring their own animals to be sacrificed; they had to be purchased at the temple court at inflated prices. It got worse as people were not allowed to use regular money in the temple because the High Priest had ruled it was not clean. Caiaphas and his staff coined their own temple money which could be exchanged for real money at an exchange rate that defrauded the people, and then this temple money was used to purchase a sacrificial animal at an exorbitant price. No wonder Jesus called them thieves. **Mark 11:15-18**

As the high priest, Caiaphas was also the head of the Sanhedrin, which had its own militia to carry out the court verdicts. **Matthew 26:47**

Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin and he objected to their treatment of Jesus. **John 3:1; 7:45-53**

Joseph of Arimathea was also a member of the Sanhedrin and he too became a follower of Jesus. **Luke 23:50-53**

The scribes colluded with the High Priest and his staff; evidence of this can be seen with the leading scribes present at the Sanhedrin trial of Jesus. **Matthew 26:57-60**

THE PHARISEES

The Pharisees were a conservative religious movement and also a political party. They were deeply into the Talmud and the Kabbalah and continually clashed with Jesus, who rebuked them and called them children of hell. **Matthew 23:1-35**

Jesus rejected the Talmud, which was known as the Tradition of the Elders. **Matthew 15:1-9; Mark 7:5-13**

THE SADDUCEES

The Sadducees was more of a political party. Wealthy Jews were attracted to the Sadducee movement since they did not frown upon Jews working with the Roman occupation government. They administered the laws of Rome and made sure the people of Judah complied by collecting taxes on behalf of the Romans, they were in charge of the Jewish militia and worked with the Roman Army, etc.

The Sadducees rejected the Talmud and stuck to the Old Testament. Most likely they evolved over time into Karaite Judaism, which strongly rejects the Talmud and the Kabbalah.

There are some 50,000 Karaite Jews living in Israel today with their own synagogues with the same amount spread out among the other nations of the world.

The Sadducees and the Pharisees did not get along, particularly since the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. **Matthew 22:23-34**

THE HERODIANS

The Herodians were a political party that thrived during the Roman occupation of Judah. It consisted of Jews who had mixed Judaism with Greek customs and religious beliefs.

The party was supportive of Herod the Great who had ordered the deaths of the every young boy in Bethlehem, and his son Herod Antipas, who continued as a vassal ruler under the Roman occupation government of Pontius Pilate.

The Herodians did not like Jesus and had several run-ins with Him. **Matthew 22:15-22; Mark 3:1-6; 12:12-13; Luke 13:31-33**

SUMMARY

Jesus had to operate in a hostile environment under a Roman occupation government and deal with several corrupt political/religious parties. He choice of eleven simple Jewish men with no political experience seemed foolish.

Levi the tax collector would have been a member of the Sadducees but Jesus looked at his soul and decided he needed to be molded into an apostle.

It would seem that Jesus and his followers were no match for the crooked religious leaders and the savvy political operators from the different parties. The movement Jesus started was fueled and powered by the Holy Spirit.

Some 2,000 years later Christianity is a worldwide movement, while Caiaphas, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Herodians and the mighty Roman Empire no longer exist. Jesus said it all:

“And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.” (Matthew 21:44-45)

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?