

James the Younger

“The Disciples”



James is represented by the saw because he was supposedly thrown from the top of a temple and sawn into several pieces.

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Bloom where you are planted?” This was the situation with James, the Younger, one of Christ’s disciples. Paul also refers to him as James the Lord’s brother in Galatians 1:19. Other disciples were sent to parts of the known world at that time after the crucifixion of Christ. James stayed in Jerusalem where his work was just as important, and more dangerous immediately after the death of Christ than the places where many of the others went. In Jerusalem, people knew of Christ and what had happened. They

wanted to stop this transformation they saw taking place. Eventually a mob attacked James and killed him.

The lily of the field symbolizes James to me because he stayed where he was in Jerusalem and preached the Gospel even though he knew it was dangerous for him to be doing it. The lily also blooms where it is planted and shows all the glory of God. Sometimes we tend to plant flowers in rocky soil, or soil with no nutrients and then want them to bloom. Sometimes they do, but often their beauty is cut short because the ground is not good. We know that the short time James spent in Jerusalem was very productive and a church was established,

“Consider the lilies how they grow. They toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which is to day in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Luke 12:27-31



If we wanted to get carried away with symbolism and step out on a limb we could compare Jerusalem to soil because God had tried for years to guide the Jews and save them. His journey with them to the promised land was not very joyful. God’s love like the Lily eventually bloomed and scripture tells

us that James was able to do some things in Jerusalem before he was killed and that a very productive church was established

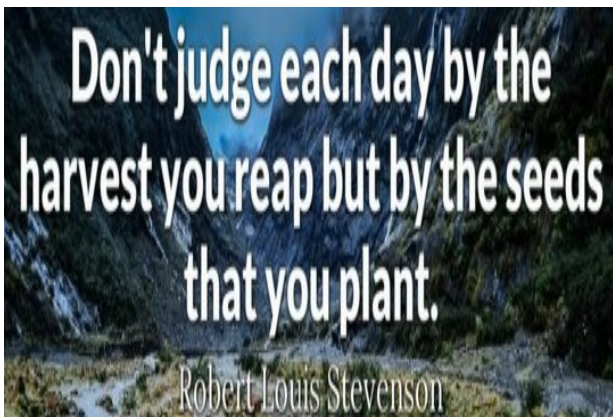
God knows of every need, no matter how small before we even ask. Most of us know where we are. Some of us were born in a certain area and have stayed there. Some of us have moved at least once, others several times. We are citizens of this wonderful country. Are we spreading the word of God through our thoughts, actions, and even our very lives? James did. God is with us whether we move to various areas or even different countries and he is with us all the time if we stay in the same location all of our lives. Wherever we live there is always God’s work to be done to us.

James was chosen to spend his time in Jerusalem. He was among many people that wanted to get rid of this interruption that had changed their personal lives. The preaching was actually changing the actions of people in government and even daily work. He knew he was a target, but he refused to hide. He went out. He preached. He bloomed as God had planned. He suffered and died for his cause. Many of us are not asked to die for our causes in that way, but we are asked to bloom to spread the



word, and let our talents be seen by others. God will never hide our beauty. Only we can do that to ourselves. We can be like the lily of the field and be arrayed in beauty that only God can provide. We can use our talents and brighten the lives of many people, by just asking how they are doing. We can show that we care in some small way. Or, we can keep our talents hidden, and never receive the benefits that come from sharing with others. The choice is ours.

Christ also told a parable about how important it is to use the talents we have been given as James did. In Matthew we are told of three servants who were given bags of gold – one was given one bag, one was given two bags, and one was given five. The one that was only given one bag hid it rather than doubling it like the other two. Instead he came up with excuses and blamed the giver for being a hard master. Was he afraid, or was he lazy. According to what is written in Matthew, he was called wicked and lazy and his gold was taken from him and given to the one who had multiplied his. We are sometimes told if you don't use a talent, you lose it. James had no fear of his Master. He used his talent and it grew many fold.



Just as James saw God where he was, we see God every day in everything around us from the people we meet to the tiny seeds. The song “I See God” by Leveen and Mencher reminds us that God is not only within us but all around us.

I SEE GOD

*“No mortal man could ever plan
The wonders I behold.
The things I see inspire me
With reverence untold.
I see God in every scented rose
I see God in everything that grows
I see God in gentle falling rain
In the snow that falls up on the plain
I see God at sunrise everyday
In the smiles of children as they play
High above as birds are on the wing
I see God, Oh, God is ev'ry thing!
I see God in ev'ry brook that flows,
I see God in poetry and prose,
I see God on ev'ry mountain peak,
In the breeze caressing ev'ry cheek,
I see God- starlight evening skies
In the love that fills a mother's eyes
Standing by to help when troubles
falls. I see God;
I know that God is all.”*

Some authorities refer to this John as the brother of Christ and base this on the Scripture found in Matthew 27:55-56. *“Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.”* However there is no proof of this anywhere in the Bible.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the beauty that we see around us every day. Help us to see not only the beauty of the flowers and nature, but help us to see the beauty in each other and then want to share our beauty, our talents with them so that all may know that You are our Lord and Savior and care for us each day, just as You do the small lily, and even more. Amen.

1. Are we blooming? What does it mean to compare us to a lily of the field?
2. Would it be easier to work in your own home town or go to a strange land where people didn't know your history?
3. Are we using our talents for the Lord? If so, can we see the benefits?
4. How does the parable of the talents apply to us today not only in our religious situations, but in our daily lives with the abilities we have been given?
5. Where do you see God?

©rgscripts
info@rgscripts.com

