

Simon the Zealot

Simon Zelotes, the eleventh apostle, was chosen by Simon Peter.

He was an able man of good ancestry and lived with his family at Capernaum.

He was twenty-eight years old when he became attached to the apostles.

He was a fiery agitator and was also a man who spoke much without thinking.

He had been a merchant in Capernaum before he turned his entire attention to the patriotic organization of the Zealots.

Simon Zelotes was given charge of the diversions and relaxation of the apostolic group, and he was a very efficient organizer of the play life and recreational activities of the twelve.

Simon's strength was his inspirational loyalty.

When the apostles found a man or woman who floundered in indecision about entering the kingdom, they would send for Simon.

It usually required only about fifteen minutes for this enthusiastic advocate of salvation through faith in God to settle all doubts and remove all indecision, to see a new soul born into the "liberty of faith and the joy of salvation."

Simon's great weakness was his material-mindedness.

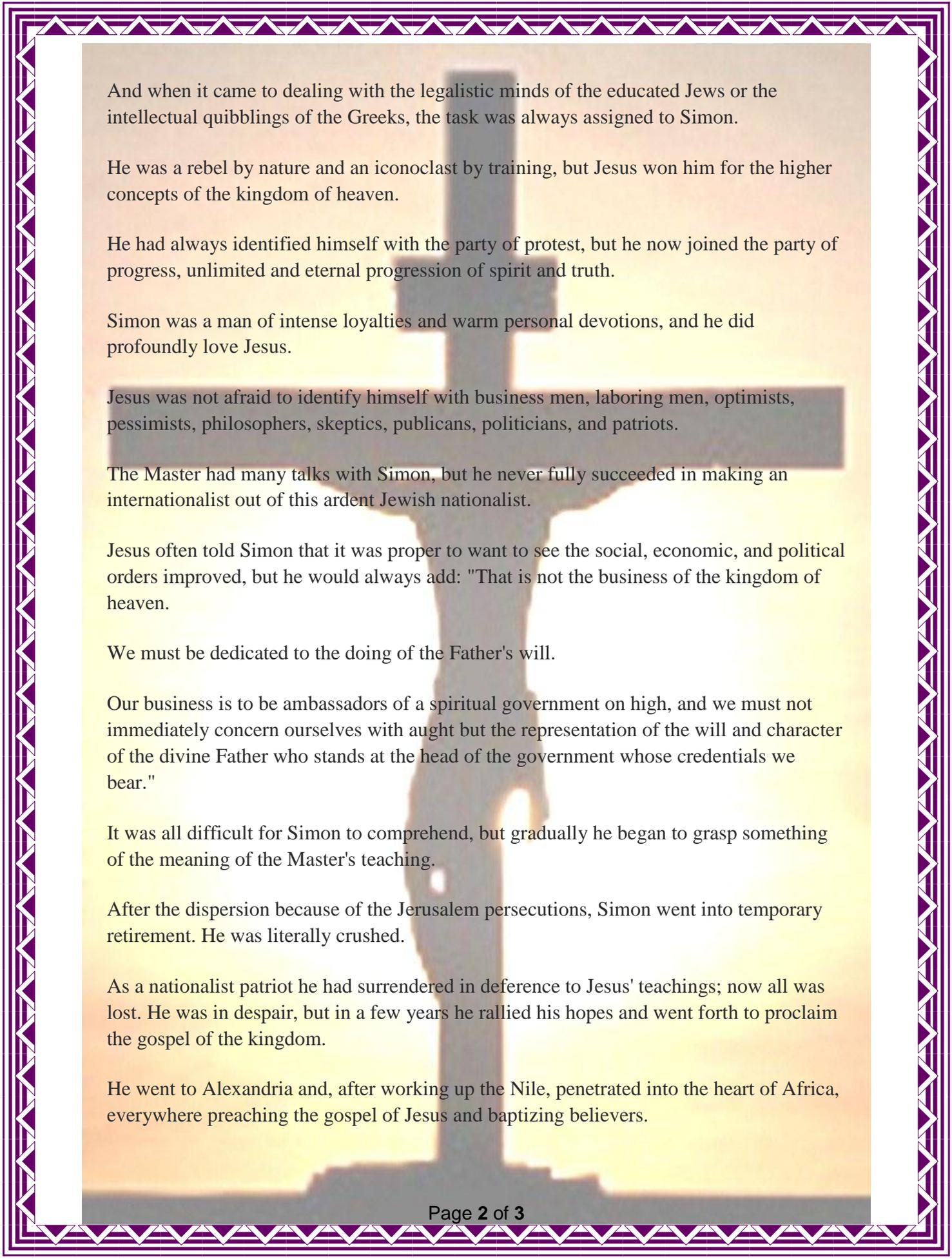
He could not quickly change himself from a Jewish nationalist to a spiritually minded internationalist.

Four years was too short a time in which to make such an intellectual and emotional transformation, but Jesus was always patient with him.

The one thing about Jesus which Simon so much admired was the Master's calmness, his assurance, poise, and inexplicable composure.

Although Simon was a rabid revolutionist, a fearless firebrand of agitation, he gradually subdued his fiery nature until he became a powerful and effective preacher of "Peace on earth and good will among men."

Simon was a great debater; he did like to argue.



And when it came to dealing with the legalistic minds of the educated Jews or the intellectual quibblings of the Greeks, the task was always assigned to Simon.

He was a rebel by nature and an iconoclast by training, but Jesus won him for the higher concepts of the kingdom of heaven.

He had always identified himself with the party of protest, but he now joined the party of progress, unlimited and eternal progression of spirit and truth.

Simon was a man of intense loyalties and warm personal devotions, and he did profoundly love Jesus.

Jesus was not afraid to identify himself with business men, laboring men, optimists, pessimists, philosophers, skeptics, publicans, politicians, and patriots.

The Master had many talks with Simon, but he never fully succeeded in making an internationalist out of this ardent Jewish nationalist.

Jesus often told Simon that it was proper to want to see the social, economic, and political orders improved, but he would always add: "That is not the business of the kingdom of heaven.

We must be dedicated to the doing of the Father's will.

Our business is to be ambassadors of a spiritual government on high, and we must not immediately concern ourselves with aught but the representation of the will and character of the divine Father who stands at the head of the government whose credentials we bear."

It was all difficult for Simon to comprehend, but gradually he began to grasp something of the meaning of the Master's teaching.

After the dispersion because of the Jerusalem persecutions, Simon went into temporary retirement. He was literally crushed.

As a nationalist patriot he had surrendered in deference to Jesus' teachings; now all was lost. He was in despair, but in a few years he rallied his hopes and went forth to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom.

He went to Alexandria and, after working up the Nile, penetrated into the heart of Africa, everywhere preaching the gospel of Jesus and baptizing believers.

Thus he labored until he was an old man and feeble. And he died and was buried in the heart of Africa.

Accomplishments of Simon the Zealot:

Scripture tells us almost nothing about Simon. In the Gospels, he is mentioned in three places, but only to list his name with the 12 disciples. In Acts 1:13 we learn that he was present with the 11 apostles in the upper room of Jerusalem after Christ had ascended to heaven.

Church tradition holds that he spread the gospel in Egypt as a missionary and was martyred in Persia.

Simon the Zealot's Strengths:

Simon left everything in his previous life to follow Jesus. He lived true to the Great Commission after Jesus' ascension.

Simon the Zealot's Weaknesses:

Like most of the other apostles, Simon the Zealot deserted Jesus during his trial and crucifixion.

Life Lessons:

Jesus Christ transcends political causes, governments, and all earthly turmoil. His kingdom is eternal. Following Jesus leads to salvation and heaven.

Hometown:

Unknown.

Referenced in the Bible:

Matthew 10:4 Mark 3:18 Luke 6:15 Acts 1:13

Occupation:

Unknown, then disciple and missionary for Jesus Christ

Key Verse:

Matthew 10:2-4

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. (NIV)

Click link below to read more about Simon

<http://christianity.about.com/od/newtestamentpeople/a/JZ-Simon-The-Zealot.htm>