



FAILING MEN – RISING

Acts 12:1-2 Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James, the brother of John, with the sword.

- James, son of Zebedee, was the first disciple to be martyred for his faith. Look at the fact that James was the first to be killed. Question: What does it say about the life he lived, being a disciple of Christ?

Read Mark 3:16-19 and Acts 1:13

- James's name immediately follows Peter's name in both accounts.

Questions: Called a son of thunder. What does that say about his leadership? How is your thunder in life?

- James – a man of passion. He was a man of intense fervor and intensity. Read 2 Kings 9:14-29. Jehu was a man after selfish ambition and James could be compared to that had not Jesus transformed his life.

Question: How can selfish ambition lead a man to failing?

- Having passion or zeal that is not righteous can create failure. Zeal apart from knowledge can be damning. Read Romans 10:2.

Question: Having sincerity and devotion will never save your soul. Only loving kindness and mercy are true virtues of a righteous man. How are you doing in kindness and mercy?

- James ran on the night that came after Jesus in the Mt. of Olives. His passion had surrendered to fear. Yet, like us all, failing men rise when we encounter Jesus in our lives.

Question: How has your failing in life led you to rise today in being the man of God you are today?

Final Thought: James's life is a prototype of the passionate, zealous, front runner who is dynamic, strong, and ambitious. His failing tempered his life to be a man who had sensitivity. With grace he learned to control his anger, bridle his tongue, and redirect his zeal for revenge and selfish ambition. So, it's said the Lord used him to do a wonderful work for the early church. He learned Failing Men – Rise!

Next week: The Life of the disciple Peter