

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT
MARCH 31, 2022

Who was Simon the Zealot? Why is he called the Zealot? He was the cousin of Jude, the brother of Jesus. He is listed as one of the twelve, but there is very little that we know about him. The nickname Zealot comes perhaps because he was simply zealous. Some have associated him with a group of priests in the Temple. They expected that when the Messiah came He would overthrow Rome with force. We get a glimpse of this thinking when Jesus cleans out the Temple and the disciples remember the words of the Psalmist in 119:139, "My zeal has consumed me."

What we do know of his ministry, we know from church historians. The most widespread tradition is that after evangelizing in Egypt and Africa, Simon joined Jude in Persia and Armenia or Beirut, Lebanon, where they were martyred in 65 AD.

It is said that he was sawn in half. He would have been hung upside down and sawn in half vertically with a wooden saw. It's hard to imagine such cruelty against those who were preaching the Gospel of Christ. When Simon is pictured or portrayed, he is always holding a saw.

Lord, probably none of us would have the commitment and the faith and the courage that was Simon's to die for Christ with such torture and cruelty. In fact, we might not have the courage to die for our faith at all. We pray that we never have to make that decision. But in the meantime, Lord, give us the kind of faith that helps us to live for You even in the presence of those who do not believe that You are the Christ. Amen. Pastor Louise