

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**  
**MAY 9, 2022**

The Apostle Paul continues his narrative to the Church at Corinth by recording that the resurrected Jesus appeared to his half-brother James (1 Corinthians 15:7).

We know that during his ministry on earth it was difficult for his family to believe that Jesus was who He said He was. This may be surprising, considering that Mary had known from before his birth that He was the Son of God. It may have been that what Jesus was doing and the danger that He always faced was more than she could bear. We find recorded in Mark 3:31 the incident when Jesus was inside a house teaching and his Mother and brothers arrive outside and send word in to Him that they want Him to come out. It is at this point that Jesus declares that all who follow Him are his family.

It is necessary that James comes to believe and to follow his half-brother as the Messiah if the Church at Jerusalem is to become a reality. James, along with Peter, will become the planter and the leader of that church. It was under the leadership of James that the Gentiles in other countries were welcomed into the Church without having to keep all of the Jewish laws (Acts 15:1-35).

All non-Jews owe a great thanksgiving to James. He was the leader and the one who really influenced that landmark decision by the Church Council at Jerusalem. The decision meant that the Gentiles did not have to become observers of the Jewish laws and observances in order to also become a follower of Jesus.

References in the Dead Sea Scrolls refer to James as “the Righteous Teacher.” The *Epistle of James* has traditionally been attributed to James, the half-brother of Jesus. In Galatians 1:18-2:10 Paul describes a return trip to Jerusalem from one of his mission tours. Paul describes meeting Peter and James, the Lord’s brother. In 2:9 Paul describes James as being one of the pillars of the Church. On the orders of Herod James was beheaded as he prayed at the altar in the church.

*Lord, the blessings of James’ life live on to strengthen our faith. Amen.*

*Pastor Louise*