

1. Introduction to the Zealots:

- Mark 3:18 – one of Jesus’ disciples was called “Simon the Zealot.”
- Many of the disciples display “zealot-like” tendencies.
 - This will be brought out over the study of the Zealots.
 - We can see in the text an underlying revolutionary drive and the desire to use violent means.

2. Gamla – the Headquarters of the Zealot movement in the 1st-century

- Gamla is located deep inside a wadi in the northeast corner of the Sea of Galilee.
 - Region called Batanea.
- Political Boundary:
 - Herod Antipas ruled Galilee – west of the Jordan river.
 - Herod Philip ruled Batanea – east of the Jordan river.

3. Bethsaida – in the territory of Batanea – ruled by Herod Philip.

- Disciples who would have been influenced, or at the very least, familiar with Zealot thinking.
- Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Philip (plus others that we will see over our study of Zealots).

4. Gamla = Aramaic for “Camel”

- The hill of Gamla resembles the hump of a camel.
- Eventually destroyed by the Roman army in a war started mainly by the Zealot movement (66 – 70 CE).
- Zealots committed mass suicide (like Masada) rather than fall to the Roman sword.
- Never re-established as a city.
- Gamla was excavated in the late ’60s.
- Discovery of a first-century synagogue.

5. History that leads up to the Zealot movement and the arrival of Jesus and his ministry (see timeline attachment).

6. The Maccabees (see Apocrypha – 1 and 2 Maccabees)

- Freedom fighters who fought against the Seleucid Greek army
- The Maccabees won a victory – with the help of God.
- Cleansed the Temple in Jerusalem – **Holiday of Hanukkah** (John 10:22)
- Father is Mattathias – a priestly family.
- Judas Maccabeus – son and subsequent leader of the movement
- Refer to themselves as *kana'im* – the zealous ones (little z – not an official movement)-

“When Mattathias saw it, he burned with **zeal** (*kana*) and his heart was stirred.” 1 Maccabees 2:24

“Thus, he burned with **zeal** (*kana*) for the law, just a **Phinehas** did...” 1 Maccabees 2:26

“Then Mattathias cried out in the town with a loud voice, saying: “Let everyone who is **zealous** for the law and supports the covenant come out with me!” 1 Maccabees 2:27

7. The Maccabees are recent heroes to the Zealots of the 1st-century:

- If God used the Maccabees to overthrow the Greek army – imagine what he can do to Rome!!

8. **Kana** = zeal, zealous

- **1 Kings 19:10** – Elijah meeting with God at Mount Horeb
- **Numbers 25:10-13** – Phinehas the Priest
- **Exodus 20:5** – God is a ‘zealous’ God – our English ‘jealous’ comes off a bit too petty. God is ZEALOUS for his relationship with us.

9. What about Paul?

- **Philippians 3:6** – Paul is acting like a Zealot until Jesus can redirect his zealous energy.
- **Titus 2:14** – we should be “**zealous** for good works.” (ESV)

10. What about Jesus?

- **John 2:17** (Psalm 69:9) – “**Zeal** for your house will consume me.”

11. Jesus went to a wedding in?

- *Kana* – Cana is anglicized – John 2:1

12. Where is the disciple Nathaniel from?

- *Kana* – John 21:2