



Mark 3:17

James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder")

Nicknames

 Nicknames can hold different meanings, both good and bad. "Sons of Thunder" is fiery and potent, but also impetuous, abrupt, and jarring.



Nicknames

- Nicknames can hold different meanings, both good and bad. "Sons of Thunder" is fiery and potent, but also impetuous, abrupt, and jarring.
- Jacob (Israel) is another example. "He who wrestles with God" is a fitting moniker for someone who needed to be reminded what a headache he had been to so many (Gen. 32)!





Boanerges

 Jesus had His own reasons for nicknaming several of His disciples — perhaps it was prophetic, subtly critical, or even a little tongue-in-cheek.



Boanerges

- Jesus had His own reasons for nicknaming several of His disciples — perhaps it was prophetic, subtly critical, or even a little tongue-in-cheek.
- Likely, it had a lot to do with the brothers' fiery, passionate personalities.

⁵¹ When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem; 52 and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him. 53 And they did not receive Him, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem. 54 When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" 55 But He turned and rebuked them, saying, "You do not know of what kind of spirit you are; 56 for the Son of Man did not come to destroy people's lives, but to save them."

Luke 9:51-56

Lessons

 It's OK to be offended for Jesus. We have plenty of reasons (persecution, blasphemy, those who fall from the faith, hypocritical Christians, the injustice of the cross).

Lessons

- It's OK to be offended for Jesus. We have plenty of reasons (persecution, blasphemy, those who fall from the faith, hypocritical Christians, the injustice of the cross).
- Our first response, however, is not always the right one. Ideas need to be vetted, put through a filter. Just like rash vows (Jephthah, Herod, Ecclesiastes 5:4-5).

Lessons

- It's OK to be offended for Jesus. We have plenty of reasons (persecution, blasphemy, those who fall from the faith, hypocritical Christians, the injustice of the cross).
- Our first response, however, is not always the right one. Ideas need to be vetted, put through a filter. Just like rash vows (Jephthah, Herod, Ecclesiastes 5:4-5).
- Feelings don't mean you're right. Be careful that your "righteous indignation" isn't just plain old indignation (Rom. 2:8, Gal. 5:20 & 22-23, Col. 3:8 & 12-15).



Being a Son of Thunder is fine, unless it's not what God needs you to be!



Sons of Thunder don't know how to...

- Speak gently to a young couple struggling to find their way
- Unlock a hard heart that has been hurt by abuse
- Be patient with the ignorant
- Submit when they disagree
- Be the cooler head that prevails

