

Commentary on the Gospel for Sat, Dec 27th 2014

St. John was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. According to his own Gospel, he was the first to be called together with Andrew. He was the younger brother of James. He was the youngest of the twelve apostles. His father was Zebedee who owned a fishing vessel, and had hired servants. Salome was his mother who ministered to the Lord of her substance (Luke 8:3), and was one of the women who accompanied Jesus' final journey from Galilee to Jerusalem (Luke 23:55; 24:1; Mark 16:1), and after his death bought spices to anoint his body. John had his own house to which he took Mary (John 19:27). Zebedee was a religious man. He offered both his sons to Jesus' mission. Salome participated positively in the mission of Jesus. John formed the core group of Jesus along with Peter and James. They alone witnessed the raising of Jairus' daughter, transfiguration and his agony at Gethsemane. John, the "son of thunder" (Mark 3:17) was full of burning zeal, was ready to drink the Lord's bitter cup. He was the only apostle who witnessed the death and resurrection of Jesus. John's thought and feelings became so identified with Jesus. He is the author of five books in the New Testament. He was the beloved disciple of Jesus who loved Jesus so much and wanted that we love one another. Let John inspire us to have passion for Jesus and passion for humanity.

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