**CAMPUS MODULE 2: KEY ACTORS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

1. THE SCRIBES

* THE ESSENCE OF JUDAISM WAS THE OBSERVATION OF THE LAW…
* THEREFORE, THERE NEEDED TO BE INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE LAW AND THEN TEACH IT.
* THE FIRST SCRIBE WAS EZRA (EZRA 7:10)
* THE SCRIBES WERE CALLED “LAWYERS” (Luke 11:45)
* THEY WERE BIBLICAL SCHOLARS
* THEY WERE EXEGETES:
* THEY WERE THEOLOGIANS
* THEY WERE COPYISTS OF THE SCRIPTURES.

2. THE PHARISEES

* THEY WERE ALSO CALLED THE ‘SEPARATED ONES” (FROM THE HEBREW VERB “PARASH” = TO SEPARATE)
* ORIGINATED IN THE PERIOD BEFORE THE MACCABEAN WAR IN REACTION TO THE HELLENIZATION OF THE JEWS.
* KEPT STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE MOSAIC LAW.
* THEY WERE MARKED BY PECULIARITIES OF DRESS AND PRACTICE.
  + THEY FASTED OFTEN
  + TITHED METICULOUSLY
  + PRACTICED RITUAL PRAYERS
  + …RITUAL WASHINGS…
  + AVOIDED ALL GENTILES.
  + …ATE ONLY KOSHER FOOD
    - **What is Kosher? (video clip)**
* PHARISEES LOOKED FORWARD TO THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH AND HIS KINGDOM… (HIS KINGDOM WAS TO BE TEMPORAL IN WHICH THEY THE “*PIOUS ONES*” WERE TO EXERCISE AUTHORITY).
* BELIEVED IN A BODILY RESURRECTION AND ETERNAL LIFE.
* BELIEVED IN ANGELS AND DEMONS AND MINISTERING SPIRITS.
* They were also very legalistic.

3. THE SADDUCEES

* THEY WERE THE THEOLOGICAL OPPONENTS OF THE PHARISEES.
* THEY REJECTED THE ORAL TRADITION AND THE DOCTRINE OF…
  + THE RESURRECTION
  + IMMORTALITY
  + ANGELOLOGY
  + DEMONOLOGY.
* THEY WERE FEW IN NUMBER
* THEY WERE EDUCATED MEN
* THEY WERE MOSTLY WEALTHY AND OF GOOD POSITION.
* POLITCALLY THEY WERE LIBERALS AND ALIGNED THEMSELVES TO WHATEVER POWER WAS DOMINANT.
* RELIGIOUSLY THEY WERE CONSERVATIVES, BELIEVING THE PENTETEUCH REVEALED ALL THE LAWS AND RULES REQUIRED FOR THE PRIESTHOOD AND HOW TO SACRIFICE IN THE TEMPLE.
* THEY OPPOSED JESUS BECAUSE HE TREATENED TO UNDERMINE THEIR ESTABLISHMENT IN THE TEMPLE.

**4. THE HERODIANS**

* PRIMARILY A POLITICAL PARTY
* SUPPORTED THE HEROD FAMILY WHO WANTED TO PLEASE ROME

**5. SAMARITANS**

* THE JEWS REPUDIATED ANY CONNECTION WITH THIS GROUP.
* THE WORD “SAMARITAN” DESIGNATED ONE WHO WAS…
  + 1) AN INHABITANT OF THE DISTRICT OF SAMARIA
  + 2) OF MIXED RACE
    - * Jew and Gentile
  + 3) OF MIXED RELIGION.

**6. Ammehar-arets**

* This term means “the masses” or the “people of the land”
* Considered to be uneducated.
* Not highly knowledgeable of the Law
* Pharisees held this group in contempt
* Pharisees considered Jesus to be a part of this group
* The greater part of Jesus’ group was recruited from this group.

**7. THE ESSENES**

* A monastic order.
* Believed in a very simple life style…abstaining from luxury and wealth
* Did not endorse marriage
* Wore white robes to symbolize inner purity
* Considered temple worship to be polluted.
* Practiced the absolute community of goods.
* Meticulous in matters of hygiene:
* Bathed themselves in cold water before every meal.
* Bathed after every performance of the natural function.
* Bathed every time they touched any one less clean.
* Prayed in the morning toward the sun
* Celibate.