

LUKE I Jesus Chooses His Apostles Text: Luke 6:12–19

Ordinary Men in the Hands of an Extraordinary God —Bill Turner

1. Jesus could've Picked the Best Scholars and Students of the Law...
—from the Elite Rabbinical Schools in Jerusalem...
2. But He Didn't—He Picked Fishermen, a Tax Collector, a Political Zealot...
and others so ordinary that we know hardly anything about them!
3. **12 Ordinary Men Who Placed their Lives in the Hands of an Extraordinary God**

I. JESUS CHOOSES HIS APOSTLES

A. HIS PRAYER

1. **Jesus was about to pick 12 Ordinary Men to change the world**
 - a) So Jesus spent all night in Prayer to the Father.
2. **We find Jesus in Prayer before facing trials or decisions**
 - a) On a Mountain, or in the Wilderness, or in a Garden outside Jerusalem
3. **Anytime We Face a Decision in Life it is always best to Pray about it first.**
 - a) Ask for Wisdom and Guidance How to Proceed in a situation or Handle a decision
 - b) God Knows the End From the Beginning and He Knows What is Best!

B. HIS DISCIPLES

1. **The Word DISCIPLE means: A Learner or student of a Teacher.**
 - a) Learning, gaining knowledge and understanding of Divine Truth is So Important
 - b) Jesus said We Are His Disciples if We Abide in His Word (**John 8:31–32**)
And the Truth Will Set Us Free
2. **But being a Disciple is more than just learning—It is also Following**
 - a) The Truth Learned Must Be Put into Practice
3. **If We focus ONLY on Learning — but never CHANGING...**
Are We True Disciples?
 - a) The Purpose of Learning is to Become Like the Teacher
 - b) We Are Called to become like our teacher who is Christ.

C. HIS APOSTLES

1. **The Word APOSTLE means: One Who is Sent or Commissioned.**
 - a) The Twelve Were Chosen, Commissioned and Sent with a Message
2. **An Apostle is like an Ambassador**
 - a) An Ambassador represents a country and brings a message from the King
3. **Apostles were Ambassadors of the Kingdom w/ a message from the King**

D. HIS FRIENDS

1. **Spending three LIFE CHANGING years with Jesus**
and became more than followers—they became friends
2. **Jesus has already called them “friends of the Bridegroom”**
3. **But later Jesus calls them His friends (**John 15:12–15**)**

II. TWELVE ORDINARY MEN

A. SIMON Peter & ANDREW were Brothers

They Were Both Brothers and Both were Fishermen

1. It was Jesus who gave SIMON a new name: PETER which means rock

- a) It Was a Name not for what Peter was but what he Would Become
- b) Peter's temperament was not Solid—it was up and down and all around.
- c) From Trust to Doubt, Confessing Jesus to Rebuking Jesus, from Loyalty to Denial.
- d) Peter found Success Through Failure because

Even Though He Failed, He Never Gave Up

2. ANDREW Was Not Like His Loud and Boisterous brother Peter...

- a) Andrew was always bringing someone to Jesus...
- b) Whether it was his brother Peter, or the small boy with five loaves and two fish, or the Greeks who wanted to meet Jesus.
- c) Andrew could connect with people personally and introduce them to Christ

B. JAMES & JOHN were also both Brothers

Both Commercial Fishermen and business partners w/ Peter & Andrew

1. Jesus called them the sons of thunder because of their fiery nature

- a) When he Samaritans refused to allow Jesus to stay...
- b) James & John asked if the could call fire down from heaven and incinerate the town.
- c) Jesus used it as a teachable moment to explain He came not to destroy but to save

2. Both Of These Men Changed by the Grace of God...

- **JAMES became the first Apostle killed for the Faith (Acts 12:2)**
- ^a **JOHN Became the Apostle of Love**

C. PHILLIP and BARTHOLOMEW

1. PHILLIP was from the same home town as Peter, Andrew, James and John.

- a) When Jesus was going to feed the 5,000 "he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"
- b) He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.
- c) Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" (John 6:5-7 NIV)
- d) Jesus knows the way we think—and the way we must change our thinking

2. BARTHOLOMEW is also know as Nathaniel (Jn 1:45).

- a) It was Phillip Who Told Nathaniel About Jesus of Nazareth
- b) And Nathaniel said, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?
Phillip said, come and see!
- c) Jesus Knew Everything About Nathaniel Although They Had Never Actually Met
So Nathaniel Knew Jesus Was the Son of God

D. MATTHEW and THOMAS

1. MATTHEW was a Tax-Collector and probably the richest disciple

- a) Matthew Did Not Fit in with the Romans Because He Was Jewish
- b) But He Didn't Fit in With Jews Because He Worked for the Romans
- c) As a Tax-Collector He Was An Outcast and considered a Traitor by Jews

2. THOMAS Was Devoted to Jesus and willing to die for Him...

- a) But Then He Was **Despondent** When Jesus Died
- b) And then he **Doubted** the Eyewitnesses until He Saw Jesus Alive Himself
- c) That All Changed When Jesus Appeared Directly to Thomas Alive from the Dead

E. **JAMES the son of Alphaeus, and SIMON the Zealot**

1. **JAMES the Son of Alphaeus is also called “JAMES THE LESS”**

- a) Which Some Interpret as “James the Younger.”
- b) We just don't know much about him—
but he fulfilled His Ministry and Paid the Ultimate Price—His Life

2. **SIMON THE ZEALOT**

- a) We Don't Know the Background of Simon but we know about the Zealots
- b) They Were Political Para-Military Group committed to Rebellion Against Rome
Rebellion by any means - including violence.

F. **JUDAS the son of James, and JUDAS Iscariot who also became a traitor**

1. **It can be confusing because two of Jesus Disciples were named Judas...**

- a) Judas Iscariot and Judas the Son of James, also called Judas (not Iscariot)

2. **JUDAS, SON OF JAMES was the Disciple with Three Names...**

- a) He was Called: Judas, Thaddaeus and Lebbaeus
- b) After Judas Iscariot Betrayed Jesus... just the name “Judas” was a heavy cross for anyone to carry.
- c) Many named Judas just shortened their name to Jude

3. **JUDAS ISCARIOT**

- a) The Disciple who Betrayed Jesus with a Kiss
- b) Who Betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver
- c) But then Regretted it and threw the money back and committed suicide

III. SOME LESSONS FOR US

A. **THEY WERE ORDINARY MEN**

“The Lord must love the common people—he made so many of them.”

—Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

1. **The Men Jesus Chose as Apostles were Ordinary Men...**

- a) They were not rich or powerful...
- b) They Were Not Famous or Connected to Influential Families...
- c) They had no special education

2. **They were Fishermen, Tax-collectors, Political Zealots, Outcasts!**

—Being Prepared by Jesus for Mission Impossible!

- a) Twelve Ordinary Men Would Change the World for Christ!

B. THEY WERE AN ODD MIX

- 1. Imagine Trying to Put Together Matthew and Simon the Zealot**
 - a) Mathew was a Tax Collector who would've been considered a Traitor to Israel
 - b) A Zealot Who Would've Despised a Jewish Tax-collector working for the enemy
 - c) Then Jesus added a Pharisee who terrorized Christians in the mix (Paul) later
- 2. Jim told us of 2 Christians Worshipping at a Church of Christ in Idaho.**
 - a) They Became Friends and got to know one another
 - b) They Found out one had been a former police officer, the other a former protestor
 - c) They realized the Police Office Probably Arrested the man who was now his friend!
 - d) even people who are complete opposites may be united in their love for Christ who Saved Them. If we really love him, we will also love each other.

C. THEY WERE FAR FROM PERFECT

- 1. They Were Not Stained Glass Saints as depicted in cathedrals**
 - a) They Argued Over Who of them Would Be Greatest!
 - b) They Doubted, Despaired and Even Denied Jesus!
- 2. They Were Human and Imperfect, Like We Are...**
 - a) Jesus Used Their Mistakes as Teachable Moments to Grow in Spiritual Maturity
- 3. We also carry the Scars of from our Spiritual Battle...**

But He Heals us and He is Still Working On Us! (Philippians 1:6)

D. THEY WERE CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS LIKE YOU AND I

- 1. We All Have Different Personalities... –with different Temperaments...**
- 2. With Different Backgrounds... –From Different Walks of Life...**
- 3. With Different Strengths... –and different Weaknesses**
- 4. To Be One in Christ (Romans 12:4–6a)**

E. BUT WHY JUDAS?

- 1. Judas followed Jesus for 3 years just as the Others Did...**
 - a) Judas was not perfect just like the other disciples were not perfect.
- 2. A Disciple is Not Just a Learner of Christ but a Follower of Christ**
 - a) It's Not Just Learning ABOUT Jesus—But Becoming LIKE Jesus
 - b) This is Beyond Head Knowledge—this is Core Level Change
- 3. The Fact that One Disciple Refused to Change is a Warning For Us.**
 - a) Judas Refused to Change to Become Like Christ — Then He Gave Up
- 4. A man asked a theologian, why did Jesus choose Judas?**
 - a) The theologian said, “I don’t know but I have an even harder question. Why Did Jesus choose me?”

Jesus shows us what can happen when an ordinary man puts his life in the hands of an extraordinary God!

- 1. Let God Change Your Heart—and Never Ever Give Up (Philippians 1:6)**