

“Choosing World-Changers”

Luke 6:12-16

March 13, 2022

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13 And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:

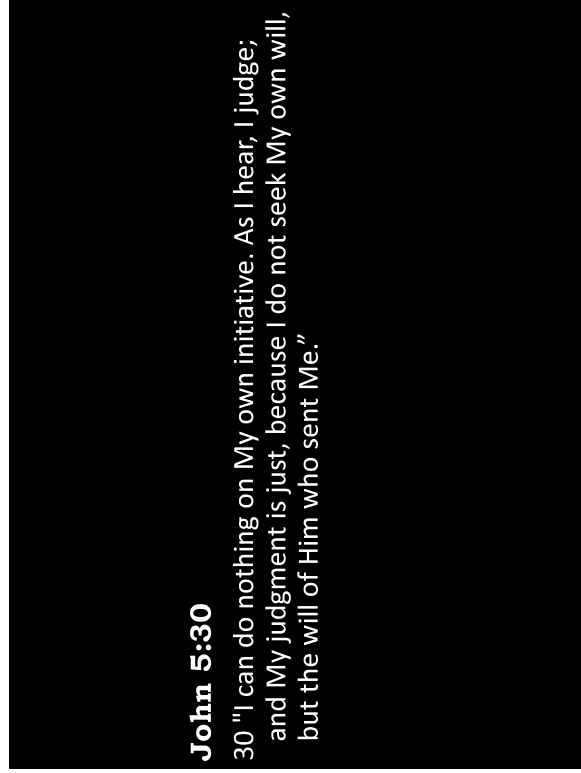
14 Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew; 15 and Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot;

16 Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

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“at this time” – right after last confrontation with Pharisees. Things are getting tense. Time to put a succession plan in place.

- Where do you start? Prayer.
- This is a monumental decision.
- **Note:** This is the only example of Jesus doing an all-night prayer session.
- He chooses a secluded place – a mountain. NW shores of the Sea of Galilee.
- Jesus is seeking the Father’s will concerning who will succeed Him.



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- In the incarnation, Jesus set aside or gave up the independent use of His divine attributes so that He might depend upon God as His Father in all things. This is showing us His humanity.
- **Options:** angels, voice from heaven, other.
- He could not use books, video recordings, Facebook, Twitter, texting, the internet, emails, voicemails, radio, or TV to get the message out.
- That leaves people.
- But who and how do you find them? No Zip Recruiter available. No applications, no interviews. No seminars, Bible schools or colleges, no Christian organizations, and no large groups of believers. Israel is apostate and opposing Him.

“Jesus was about to make a momentous decision, one that would affect the future of the world, but first He must spend time talking it over with God. Luke emphasizes here the essential humanity of the Lord Jesus. Consequently, he emphasizes the Lord's habits of prayer. All too often we make decisions and blunder into distressing situations simply because we fail to pray earnestly enough about them. Jesus never made that mistake.”

- John Phillips

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- Jesus had a larger number of disciples following Him than just the 12.

“disciple” – a learner. Nothing more. “Teachable attitude” No authority. Could be a believer or an unbeliever. You just follow someone to learn. Rabbi's had disciples.

“They have no occupation, they have given up the pursuits in which they were engaged: their fishing, their tax gathering, and their agriculture. They carry on no business; they simply walk around and behind their leader, talking to each other or to Him, and when He speaks to the people who begin to gather, they listen just like everybody else. The only thing they do is go with Him from place to place.” - Herbert Lockyer

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“All his life a Christian should be learning more and more about Jesus. The shut mind is the end of discipleship!”

- William Barclay

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“apostle” – one who is sent. Ambassador, delegate, messenger, sent to accomplish a job. Had authority of the sender. Was looked on as if the sender was the one doing it. (there were other apostles that were not a part of the original 12 - Paul, Barnabas, Epaphroditus, Andronicus, Junia[s])

“Win – Build – Send”

“chose twelve” – matched the OT number of Israel's 12 tribes. These then were to take the place of the 12 tribes (Israel) who had failed to bring the message of salvation to the world. But this is not “replacement theology.”

“chose” – God does the choosing.

John 15:16

16 “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit,

- The same is true of us as believers – we chose Him because He first chose us.

Rom 3:11

THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

Think about their importance . . .

Acts 17:6

6 When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have upset the world have come here also;

Eph 2:20

20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,

Luke 22:28-30

28 “You are those who have stood by Me in My trials;

29 and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you 30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Rev 21:14

4 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

“By constantly spending intimate time with Jesus (for 3 years with God incarnate!), the Twelve would be personally mentored by the Messiah Himself. They would be trained as His apprentices. These twelve men would be responsible for the spread of the gospel and the establishment of sound doctrine, laying the foundation of the church (Eph. 2:20). For the remainder of His earthly ministry, Jesus intensely invested Himself in preparing them.”

- Warren Wiersbe

14 Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew;

- Let’s look at the following chart . . .

FIRST GROUP	
Simon Peter	The man of rock.
Andrew	Peter’s brother.
James and John	Sons of Zebedee, and sons of thunder.
SECOND GROUP	
Philip	The earnest inquirer.
Bartholomew, or Nathanael	The guileless Israelite.
Thomas	The melancholy.
Matthew (Levi)	The publican (so called) by himself only.
THIRD GROUP	
James (the son) of Alphaeus	(James the Less?). (Mk. 15:40)
Lebbaeus, Thaddaeus, Judas of James,	The “three-named” disciple
Simon	The Zealot
Judas, the man of Kerioth	The Traitor

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THE FOUR NT LISTS OF JESUS’ DISCIPLES					
	Matthew 10:2-4	Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:14-16	Acts 1:13	
1	Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Peter	
2	Andrew	James	Andrew	James	
3	James	John	James	John	
4	John	Andrew	John	Andrew	
5	Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip	
6	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas	
7	Thomas	Matthew	Matthew	Bartholomew	
8	Matthew	Thomas	Thomas	Matthew	
9	James son of Alphaeus	James son of Alphaeus	James son of Alphaeus	James son of Alphaeus	
10	Thaddaeus	Thaddaeus	Judas son or brother of James	Judas son or brother of James	
11	Simon the Cananaean	Simon the Cananaean	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot	
12	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	--	

Simon Peter – fisherman/leader/impulsive/bold/asks a million questions/eager/hypocritical.

Andrew – fisherman/brother of Peter/ brings people to Christ including Peter/humble/gentle.

James – fisherman/cousin of Jesus/one of the “sons of thunder” (fiery temperament)/first to be martyred/insensitive/passionate/wrote the book of James.

John – fisherman/cousin of Jesus/one of the “sons of thunder” (fiery temperament) /wrote a gospel, 3 NT letters, and book of Revelation/“the beloved disciple”/sensitive/only disciple who was not martyred.

Philip – analytical/pessimistic/ unsure.

Bartholomew – also known as Nathaniel/honest/open.

Matthew – tax collector/walked away from the “love of money”/worked for Rome/wrote a gospel/humble.

Thomas – skeptical/hesitant.

James the son of Alphaeus – no information.

Simon who was called the Zealot – tax hater/hated Rome/would have sought to kill someone like Matthew.

Judas the son of James – no information.

Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor – loved money/easily deceived.

7 observations of those Jesus chose:

1. Different backgrounds – 4 fishermen, a tax collector, maybe some farmers, or craftsmen.
2. Different temperament types.
3. Not the wealthy, the influential, the powerful, the educated, or the famous.
4. Represented the human race in diversity.
5. These, from the worlds perspective, were nobodies, like Mary and Joseph, Anna and Simeon, Elizabeth and Zacharias, John the Baptist.
6. They were ordinary men chosen to do extraordinary tasks.
7. These were men who had a heart for God and a teachable attitude. They all gave their lives to follow Christ.

“There are many interesting connections with this group. There are brothers (James and John, Peter and Andrew); business associates (Peter, Andrew, James, and John were all fishermen); opposing political viewpoints (Matthew the Roman-friendly tax collector, and Simon, the Roman-hating Zealot); and one who would betray Jesus (Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor).”

“Jesus builds his church from people of different temperaments and backgrounds. Jesus unites people who otherwise would be enemies. Jesus calls unexpected and unlikely people to carry out his mission. Jesus transforms people in the course of serving him. Jesus equips those he calls to serve him. Jesus brings out the best in those who serve with him. Jesus allows for false individuals among those who claim to serve him”

- Douglas Milne