



Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

Week 12: Selection of the Twelve Apostles

THE TEXT: Luke 6:12-16

¹² One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. ¹³ At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles. Here are their names: ¹⁴ Simon (whom he named Peter), Andrew (Peter's brother), James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (who was called the zealot), ¹⁶ Judas (son of James), Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him). (Luke 6:12–16 NLT-SE)

JESUS OFTEN LEFT OTHERS TO PRAY ALONE

- **Pray to your Father in Private...** ⁵ “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. ⁶ But when you pray, *go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private.* Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. (Matt 6:5–6 NLT-SE)
- **Praying early in the morning...** ³⁵ Before daybreak the next morning, *Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.* ³⁶ Later Simon and the others went out to find him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said, “Everyone is looking for you.” (Mark 1:35–37 NLT-SE)
- **Heading for the hills to pray...** ²³ After sending them home, *he went up into the hills by himself to pray.* Night fell while he was there alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. (Matt 14:23–24 NLT-SE)
- **Withdrawing to the wilderness to pray...** ¹⁵ But despite Jesus’ instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. ¹⁶ But *Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.* (Luke 5:15–16 NLT-SE)
- **Praying all night...** ¹² One day soon afterward *Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night.* ¹³ At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles. (Luke 6:12–13 NLT-SE)
- **Leaving the crowds to pray...** One day *Jesus left the crowds to pray alone.* Only his disciples were with him, and he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” (Luke 9:18 NLT-SE)

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES

- **It is an easy thing to get confused between these two terms...** especially if you're a serious reader of the gospels. For one, the word apostle doesn't even appear in the gospels of Matthew and John, and even there the terms seem to be used interchangeably. And though there are no "apostles" in Matthew and John, the twelve "disciples" clearly have a different role than the crowd of disciples who followed Jesus across the countryside. So, what's the difference?
 - **A disciple is a follower.** You can follow Jesus and not believe in him and you can believe in him and not follow him. The biblical target is to trust in who Jesus is and then follow him. If we do that, we will receive huge blessings that come as a result, as well as “various trials” that will test our resolve, but “Whoa to him who doesn’t follow!”

- **An Apostle is someone who starts something new.** “The Twelve” were examples of men who operated in the **office** of apostle, and in Paul’s writings we also see the **gift** of apostle. They look very similar, but they are not the same thing. There are men and women all over the world who are doing apostolic ministry (“sent ones”). Rarely do they call themselves Apostles. Dave Ferguson, senior pastor of Community Christian Church in Naperville, Illinois, adds, “People with the apostolic gift see over the horizon. They’re able to look at the spiritual landscape and see where God is working.”
 - **Office of Apostle...** The spiritual gift of apostleship is sometimes confused with the office of Apostle. The office of Apostle was held by a limited number of men chosen by Jesus including the twelve disciples (Mark 3:13-19) and Paul (Romans 1:1). The requirements for the office of Apostle included being a faithful eyewitness of Jesus’ ministry and His resurrection (Acts 1:21-22; 1 Corinthians 9:1) and being personally called by Jesus (Galatians 1:1).
 - **Gift of Apostle...** Those who operate in an apostolic gift can be described in many ways: Spiritual entrepreneurs, ministry initiators, extenders, and connectors, or shepherd of shepherds. They are influencers. They are typically entrepreneurial and are able to take risks and perform difficult tasks. See also Ephesians 4:11, I Corinthians 12:28, Acts 1:21-22, 1 Corinthians 9:1.

WHO WERE THE APOSTLES?

- **Simon** (Fisherman)
 - Simon Peter, son of Jonas, was a fisherman who lived in Bethsaida and Capernaum. He was a member of the Inner Circle and authored the two New Testament epistles which bear his name.
- **Andrew** (Fisherman)
 - Andrew was the brother of Peter, and a son of Jonas. He lived in Bethsaida and Capernaum and was a fisherman before Jesus called him. Originally he was a disciple of John the Baptist (Mark 1:16-18). Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus (John 1:40).
- **James**, the elder (Fisherman)
 - James, the Elder, son of Zebedee and Salome, brother of John the Apostle; a fisherman who lived in Bethsaida, Capernaum and Jerusalem. He preached in Jerusalem and Judea and was beheaded by Herod, AD 44 (Acts 12:1,2). He was a member of the Inner Circle, so called because they were accorded special privileges. The New Testament tells us very little about James. His name never appears apart from that of his brother, John. They were an inseparable pair (Mark 1:19-20; Matthew 4:21; Luke 5:1-11).
- **John** (Fisherman)
 - John, son of Zebedee and Salome, brother of James, the Apostle. He was known as the Beloved Disciple. A fisherman who lived in Bethsaida, Capernaum and Jerusalem, he was a member of the Inner Circle. He wrote the Gospel of John, I John, II John, III John and Revelation. He preached among the churches of Asia Minor. Banished to the isle of Patmos, he was later freed and died a natural death.
- **Philip** (Fisherman)
 - Philip came from Bethsaida, the town from which Peter and Andrew came (John 1:44). The likelihood is that he, too, was a fisherman.
- **Bartholomew**, or Nathanael (Royal blood, father was king of Geshur)
 - Bartholomew Nathanael lived in Cana of Galilee. Tradition says he was a missionary in Armenia. A number of scholars believe that he was the only one of the 12 disciples who came from royal blood, or noble birth. His name means Son of Tolmai or Talmi(2 Samuel 3:3). Talmi was king of Geshur whose daughter, Maacah, was the wife of David, mother of Absalom.

- **Matthew** (Tax collector)
 - Matthew, or Levi, son of Alpheus, lived in Capernaum. He was a publican or tax collector. He wrote the Gospel that bears his name. He died a martyr in Ethiopia.
 - The call of Matthew to the apostolic band is mentioned in Mark 2:14, Matthew 9:9 and Luke 5:27-28. From these passages, we learn that Matthew also was called Levi. Although we know little about Matthew personally, the outstanding fact about him is that he was a tax collector.
- **Thomas** (?)
 - Thomas Didymus lived in Galilee. Tradition says he labored in Parthia, Persia, and India, suffering martyrdom at Mt. St. Thomas, India.
- **James**, son of Alphaeus (Jude's brother)
 - James, the Lesser or Younger, son of Alpheus and Mary, lived in Galilee. He was the brother of the Apostle Jude.
 - According to tradition he wrote the Epistle of James, preached in Palestine and Egypt and was crucified in Egypt. James was one of the little-known disciples. Some scholars believe he was the brother of Matthew, the tax collector. James was a man of strong character and one of the most fiery type.
- **Simon** (Jewish Nationalist)
 - Simon, the Zealot, lived in Galilee. Tradition says he was crucified. In two places in the King James Version he is called a Canaanite (Matthew 10:4; Mark 3:18). However in the other two places he is called Simon Zelotes (Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13).
- **Judas**, or Jude, or Thaddeus, or Lebbeus (Jewish Nationalist)
 - Jude, Thaddeus, son of Alpheus or and Mary. He was a brother of James the Younger. He was one of the very little-known Apostles and lived in Galilee. Tradition says he died a martyr in Persia.
- **Judas Iscariot** (Jewish Nationalist, the only Judean)
 - Judas Iscariot, the traitor, was the son of Simon who lived in Kerioth of Judah. He betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and afterwards hanged himself (Matthew 26:14,16).
 - Judas, is the supreme enigma of the New Testament because it is so hard to see how anyone who was so close to Jesus, who saw so many miracles and heard so much of the Master's teaching could ever betray him into the hands of his enemies.

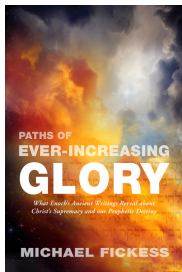
WHO REPLACED JUDAS ISCARIOT?

- **Matthias** was selected to replace Judas as recorded in Acts 1:15-26. Lots were cast and eventually Matthias was chosen. Acts 1:24-26 records the following, "And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." And he was numbered with the eleven apostles."
- The Bible is sparse on additional details relating to Matthias, but it does say that **Matthias was with Jesus since His baptism until his resurrection**. Besides the book of Acts, Matthias isn't mentioned anywhere else in the Bible. According to historical sources Matthias lived until 80 A.D. and spread the gospel on the shores of the Caspian and Cappadocia.

HAD YOU BEEN THERE THAT DAY, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE LEARNED?

- **Jesus has an incredibly close relationship with his Father**
 - **Jesus not only seeks direction and guidance from his Father, he seems to "lean into" the Father in order to receive everything in life...** Then Jesus explained: "*My nourishment comes from doing the will of God*, who sent me, and from finishing his work." (John 4:34 NLT-SE)

- **Jesus always seemed to be aware of what brought the Father pleasure and made changes in how he did things to more closely align himself with his Father's will...** ³⁰ "I don't have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me, ³¹ but ***I will do what the Father requires of me***, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let's be going. (John 14:30–31 NLT-SE)
- **Timing is everything, even with, especially with God**
 - **This is one of the most essential personal disciplines for contemporary Christians... Wait patiently for the Lord...** Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord. (Psa 27:14 NLT-SE)
 - **Waiting patiently doesn't mean that you are just hanging around for God to do something!...** ² Then the Lord said to me, "Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. ³ ***This vision is for a future time***. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, ***wait patiently***, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed. (Hab 2:2–3 NLT-SE)
 - **Trusting in the timing of the Holy Spirit and living to please him with our lives until the time is right assures us an amazing blessing as we look ahead...** ⁸ Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. ***At just the right time*** we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. (Gal 6:8–9 NLT-SE)



It may not seem like much has happened in the body of Christ in the last decade. There have been many prophetic words about the coming glory, the harvest, and the remnant God rising up. Many have said, "Where are they?" The answer is that they are hidden. Just as there are scrolls sealed until the appointed time, there are people whose lives are like a sealed scroll. Their destiny will not be fully realized by themselves or others until the Father reveals them openly. Some of the Father's favorites are hidden right now because He is protecting them for an appointed time.

~ ***Paths of Ever Increasing Glory***, by Michael Fickess

- **Jesus called "The Twelve," not as a reward for service, but as a call to action.**
 - 15 That evening the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—***you feed them***." (Matt 14:15–16 NLT-SE)
 - 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, ***let your good deeds shine out for all to see***, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. (Matt 5:15–16 NLT-SE)
 - 28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I Am he. ***I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me***. 29 And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For ***I always do what pleases him***." (John 8:28–29 NLT-SE)