

The Gospel of Luke

The Choosing of the Twelve

Luke 6:12-19¹

Suggested Memory Verse: Isaiah 46:9-11

1. The Master Displays His Method (v.12)

One very important part of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ was His habit of setting apart time to specifically pray, without distraction, to His Heavenly Father (Matt 14:23; Luke 5:16). His disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, likely because they had witnessed Jesus' own prayer life (Luke 11:1).

2. The Master Determines His Men (vs.13-16)

Jesus' hand picked inner circle of disciples were twelve normal men, eleven of whom would continue on an extraordinary mission while one would betray Him.

A. Their Designation

- I. Disciple. A Disciple is a learner, a pupil, or a student. More than merely learning from a teacher, a disciple is one who seeks to make that teaching the very rule of conduct for his or her life (cf. Luke 5:33)
- II. Apostle. While this term is applied to men other than the twelve (Acts 14:14; Gal 1:19), these twelve men were uniquely chosen for the task of learning from Jesus as well as being commissioned and empowered by Him to teach, do miracles, and testify of Him.

B. Their Description

- I. Their Pedigree: Ordinary.
While some in the greater number of disciples had religious qualifications (John 19:38 cf. Mark 15:43) and many more would later believe (Acts 6:7), Jesus chose men of ordinary ability out of secular occupations.
- II. Their Commitment: Unordinary.
These men began following Jesus at the outset of His public ministry, and faithful through both the height of His popularity as well as the depth of His disfavor (Acts 1:22). And although Jesus regularly chastised the twelve for their lack of understanding (Matt 15:16) and faith (Matt 8:26), they continued to follow and learn from Him (John 6:67-69; cf. John 17:11).

3. The Master Descends to the Multitude (vs.17-19)

In these verses that precede the following sermon (vs.20-49), Luke briefly summarizes Jesus' undeniable power and immense popularity.

¹ Parallel gospel accounts for this passage can be found in Matt 10:1-4 and Mark 3:16-19.