

Why Those Twelve?

Mark 3:13-19; Matt. 10:1-4;
Luke 6:12-16

Mark 3:13-19

- “And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. 14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, 15 and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: 16 Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; 17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder; 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite; 19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.”

1Cor. 1:27-29

- “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.”

Their Measure

- A prayerful choice
 - Luke 6:12-13 - “Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles”

Their Measure

- A difficult choice
 - Acts 1:12-26
- A critical choice

Their Measure

- A discriminating choice... the criteria Jesus didn't use:
 - Social status - they were ordinary men
 - Acts 4:13 - “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”

Their Measure

- A discriminating choice... criteria Jesus didn't use:
 - Political views
 - Personalities
 - Character
 - Aptitude and abilities
 - Spiritual maturity
- Yet Jesus said, “Did I not choose you, the twelve...” (John 6:70), and “I know whom I have chosen” (13:18).

Their Measure

- The criteria Jesus did use:
 - They were teachable
 - They were believers
 - John 6:67-69 - “Then Jesus said to the twelve, Do you also want to go away? 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Their Measure

- The criteria Jesus did use:
 - They were committed to Him
 - Mark 14:31 - “But he spoke more vehemently, If I have to die with You, I will not deny You! And they all said likewise.”

Their Measure

- A purposeful choice - Jesus chose His apostles for good reasons:
 - **Companionship**
 - Mark 3:14 - “Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach”
 - Mark 14:37 - “Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour?”
 - Luke 22:15 - “Then He said to them, With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer”

Their Measure

- John 17:11-16 - “Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

Their Measure

- To become apostles and preachers
 - Mark 3:14 - “Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach”
- To be eyewitnesses
 - Acts 1:21-22 - “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

Their Mission

- Involved discipleship - “that they should be with Him” - Mark 3:14
 - Every disciple’s first priority is being with Jesus.
 - Second is being a disciple, not a director
 - Third is being dedicated, not casually interested

Their Mission

- James 4:8 - “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”
- John 13:23 - “Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.”
- Jer. 29:13 - “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

Their Mission

- Involved declaration - they were called to go “forth to preach”
 - Acts 1:8 - “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
 - Mark 16:15 - “And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Their Mission

- Involved demonstration - Their preaching was to be accompanied by miracles.
 - Acts 3:1-12
- We do not need miracles to validate the message; that work has been completed
 - 1Cor. 13:8-13

Their Mission

- Our validation of the word is now by transformed lives
 - Matt. 5:16 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
 - Rom. 12:2 - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

The Men

- Peter
- James
- John
- Andrew
- Philip
- Bartholomew
- Matthew
- Thomas
- James the Less
- Thaddaeus
- Simon the Canaanite
- Judas Iscariot

The Men

- Why Judas?

- John 13:18-20 - “I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.' 19 Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He. 20 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”

The Men

- Their natures - they were human and subject to all that implies.
- Nevertheless, the Lord was able to transform them and use them. He took the last twelve men one would choose to conquer a kingdom, and made them into an unstoppable force that turned the world upside down and changed it forever.

The Men

- These men, who often lacked understanding, found ways to get into trouble, squabbled among themselves, were prejudiced against some of the people they were to teach, said the wrong things often, and sometimes ran away in fear, were chosen by the Lord and Creator to do the most important work that would ever be done by human hands; they carried the gospel into all the world.
- In 21 years, the world was forever transformed.

The Men

- Two lessons come of this:
 - It doesn't matter who you are, what you were, or what you bring; the Lord will find a place for you to be powerful and effective in His kingdom
 - There is no power active in this world greater than the Gospel