

7/26/20

Jesus Chose Twelve Apostles
Mk. 3:13-19

The ministry of Jesus has received overwhelming recognition as well as opposition, and the time has come for Jesus to select His twelve apostles.

Too often we have our own preconceived ideas as to how, why and whom God selects, but when compared to Scripture they all break down.

Mark tell us three things about how Jesus selected from all His disciples his twelve apostles.

- I. Jesus selected the twelve sovereignly. vs. 13
- II. Jesus selected the twelve purposefully. vs. 14-15
- III. Jesus selected the twelve knowing their person fully. vs. 16-19

I. Jesus selected the twelve sovereignly. vs. 13

*** This is the how!**

A. The location was on a mountain. vs. 13a

* “And He went up on the mountain.”

- 1. The location of the mountain is not given.
 - a. Luke says Jesus went out to the mountain to pray. Lk. 6:12a
 - b. The area was somewhere between Tiberias and Nazareth or a few miles south of Capernaum, for Jesus had been

and was preaching, teaching, casting out demons and healing in the synagogues and among the crowds. Mk. 2; Lk. 4:31-33; 5:1, 12; 6:6

- 2. The definite article is found with the mountain.
 - a. This indicates a particular mountain known to the disciples.
 - b. This mountain could be the very mountain Jesus told the apostles to meet Him after the resurrection. Matt. 26:32; 28:16b
- 3. Luke is the only one that tells us Jesus continued all night in prayer to God prior to choosing the twelve apostles. Lk. 6:12b
 - a. Jesus always depended on the Father for all things in prayer.
 - b. “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.” Mk. 1:35
* The parallel passages. Matt. 10:1-4; Mk. 3:13-19; Lk. 6:12-16

B. The decision of Jesus was made on the mountain. vs. 13a-b

* “and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And the came to Him.”

- 1. The selecting of the twleve by Jesus was according to His sovereignty through an

entire night in prayer with the Father, “those He Himself wanted”. vs. 13a

- a. The word wanted “thelo”, means to will, have a mind and intend.
 - 1) The idea is of being determined and resolved after the entire night in prayer with the Father.
 - 2) This determination and choice is not to be likened to our choices that are influence by our sinfulness and emotion, but the perfect will of God.
- b. This describes the sovereignty of God, which is one of His many attributes.
 - 1) The sovereignty of God is defined as having the right to do as God pleases, when He pleased, as He pleases, to whomever He pleases and as often as He pleases with His creation.
 - 2) But in exercising His attribute of sovereignty, God never violates or contradict any of His other attributes.
2. The selection of the twelve by Jesus was not bound by anything or anyone.
 - a. The soveriegn selection of Jesus was based on His attribute of foreknowledge.
 - 1) The Dictionary of Theology defines it like this: Prescience or foresight of God concerning the entire course of future events.

- 2) So, the choice of Jesus was based on knowing the heart and response of the twelve.
- b. The teaching that God chose and selected the twelve sovereignly without or apart from His foreknowledge or personal response is accusing God of being unjust and unloving.
 - 1) Calvinists teach this doctrine that God predestined some to be save and others to be damned, yet there is not one scripture that teaches this.
 - 2) Not only that but if God chose some to be saved solely based on His sovereignty, while damning the remainder of humanity to eternal fire by His same sovereignty, how can He be just and good, when all humanity deserved judgment and hell?
 - 3) So predestination or election is biblical, but it is based on God’s foreknowledge His initiation and the response of man through the gospel, as our text will reveal.
- c. The word foreknowledge is not found in the Old Testamnent, but is throughout it, but it does appear in the New Testament.
 - 1) Twice it appears as a noun in the New Testament. Acts 2:23; 1Pet. 1:2
 - 2) Five times it appears in the verb form in the New Testament. Acts 26:5,

- Rom. 8:29, 11:2, 1Pet. 1:20, 2Pet. 3:17
- 3) Only God has foreknowledge, which is the extension of His Omniscience for election or predestination. Eph. 1:3-4; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:29-30
3. The initiation of Jesus was the cause of their call as apostles, “and called to Him.” vs. 13a
- a. The word called “proskaleomai”, means to bid to come to one’s self.
- 1) Luke says that at day break Jesus called His many disciples and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles. Lk. 6:13
- 2) There were many disciples, we really have no idea how many.
- 2) There were 70 that were sent out two by two.
- 3) There were the twelve chosen by Jesus to be apostles.
- b. Luke tells us Jesus came down from the mountain after naming them apostles. Lk. 6:17
- * Jesus came down to a level place with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, meaning a plain.
4. The response of the disciples to be the apostles of Jesus was of their own volition, “And they came to Him.” vs. 13b
- a. Jesus did not force them to come to Him.

- b. Jesus did not force them to be His apostles.
- c. Jesus confirmed what He knew by His foreknowledge, they would answer the call to be apostles.
- d. God always initiates through the gospel message.
- e. Man responds to the message by the illumination and conviction of sin by the Holy Spirit and repents to be forgiven.

Illustration

God called Jeremiah sovereignty by His foreknowledge, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” Jer. 1:4-5

Application

1. God has selected and saved you sovereignly of His own will by His foreknowledge.
- a. Not because He didn't have a better choice.
- b. Not because you were so righteous.
- c. Not because you were so talented.
- d. But because He knew your response to His initiation through and by the gospel to repent.
- * “But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you **confess** with your **mouth** the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised

Him from the dead, you will be saved.”
Rom. 10:8-9

2. God’s sovereign will was initiated and confirmed by your response to His call to Him.
 - a. You heard the word, were convicted of your sins, repented and were saved by Jesus.
 - b. Now if sinner cannot resist the call of God, how do we explain the word of Jesus about resisting to come to Him, “But you are not willing to **come** to **Me** that you may have life.” Jn. 5:40
 - c. The one that the Father gives to Jesus are those that respond to the drawing of the Father, “All that the Father gives **Me** will **come** to **Me**, and the one who comes to **Me** I will by no means cast out.” Jn. 6:37
 - d. No person can come to Jesus on their own, they respond to the Father’s initiation, “No one can **come** to **Me** unless the Father who sent **Me** draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.” Jn. 6:44
3. Calvinist love to use scripture out of context.
 - a. This is one of their key verses, but it is out of context, it is the call for apostles, **not salvation**, “You did **not choose** Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” Jn. 15:16
 - b. Did Jesus make a mistake choosing Judas or was He contradicting Himself, “Jesus answered

them, “Did I **not choose** you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” Jn. 6:70

4. God’s sovereign call to His disciples and apostles was clear.
 - a. To come out of the multitudes.
 - b. To a cross-bearing life of death to our sin-nature and obedience to His Word.
 - c. To yield to Him and depend on Him.
 - 1) Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent **Me** has everlasting life, and shall not **come** into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” Jn. 5:24
 - 2) God is not willing any perish, but that all come to repentance. 2Pet. 3:9
 - 3) The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. And **whoever desires**, let him take the water of life freely, Rev. 22:17

Jesus selected the twelve sovereignly!

II. Jesus selected the twelve purposefully. Vs. 14-15

* **This is the why!**

- A. The short-term purpose Jesus selected them was to accompany Him during His earthly ministry. vs. 14a-b
 - * “Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him.”

1. The authority of their apostleship was from Jesus.
 - a. The word for appointed “poieo”, means to make or name a thing.
 - 1) Found 578 times in the New Testament.
 - 2) It is translated do, make, bring forth, cause, etc.
 - b. The twelve were named from all those that were following Jesus as disciples.
 - 1) Again we do not know how many.
 - 2) But the important detail is that Jesus selected the twelve from all others.
 - c. The twelve were to be with Jesus constantly.
 - 1) To be in the closest companionship with Jesus in a personal relationship.
 - 2) The total duration would be about three and a half years.
2. Their joining with Jesus had the purpose of continuing to teach them by word, deeds and example.
 - a. To prepare them for the things of the church age to come.
 - b. To look to Jesus for everything.
 - c. Many had left Jesus and Peter responded to the question of Jesus, if they also were going to leave Him, Peter said, “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” Jn. 6:68

- B. The long-term purpose Jesus chose them was to finish their training for the ministry through the word. vs. 14b-15
 1. Jesus selected the twelve to take the gospel to the world of that day, “and that He might send them out to preach.” vs. 14b
 - a. The word send “apostello”, means to order one to depart.
 - 1) The word “apo” means away from.
 - 2) The word “stello” means to send.
 - 3) Jesus named them apostles “opostolos”, sent out. Lk. 6:13
 - 4) The call of the twelve was distinct and unique, having no succession and said to be the foundational instruments in teaching of the gospel and doctrine of the church. Eph. 2:20
 - 5) Apostles are the first on the list of those Jesus gave to the church. 1Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11
 - b. The word preach “kerusso”, remember means to proclaim as a herald the good news of the Kingdom.
 - 1) The word was used of those hired by kings, emperors and others to make certain proclamations on their behalf.
 - 2) The message was not their own, but given to them.
 - 3) The authority to make the proclamation was also not their own, but was vested to them.

- 4) They were not responsible for the response of the people regarding the proclamation, only to proclaim it accurately.
- 5) So with the ones proclaiming the gospel!
- c. First to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Matt. 10:5-16
- d. Second to the gentile world. Matt. 28:19
- 2. Jesus selected the twelve to manifest the power of God, “and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons.” vs. 15
 - a. The word power “exousia”, means authority, the right or permission delegated to them.
 - * The delegate authority is from God, but God alone acts in power as He wills. Heb. 2:4
 - b. The miraculous followed the gospel proclamation, varifying the authority to forgive sins.
 - 1) The twelve were sent out by two by Jesus to preach, heal and deliver from demons. Lk. 9:1-6
 - 2) The seventy also. Lk. 10:1-11
 - 3) Sins were forgiven, physical maladies were made whole and people were delivered from demon possession.

God sent Amos out to the Northern Kingdom, but they were telling him to go away, “Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: “*I was* no prophet, Nor *was* I a son of a prophet, But I *was* a sheepbreeder And a tender of sycamore fruit. Then the LORD took me as I followed the flock, And the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to My people Israel.’ Now therefore, hear the word of the LORD: You say, ‘Do not prophesy against Israel, And do not spout against the house of Isaac.’” Amos 7:14-16

Application

1. Jesus selected and saved you for the purpose of being one with Him in fellowship.
 - a. John says, “that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have **fellowship** with us; and truly our **fellowship** is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be fulfilled.” 1Jn. 1:3-4
 - b. “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His

Illustration

resurrection, and the **fellowship** of His sufferings, being conformed to His death. if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” Phil. 3:4-11

2. Jesus selected and saved you to send you out to preach the gospel.

- a. Through your life example.
- b. Through open doors.
- c. Through prayer.
- d. Through service in the body.
- e. Through family relation or friends.

* Jesus praying to His Father, this is the Lord’s prayer, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. “And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; “that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” Jn. 17:12-19

3. God selected and saved you to send you out as His instrument and ambassador to pray for people to be saved, healed and delivered from demons, if need be.

* “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them **pray** over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has

committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and **pray** for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” Ja. 5:15-16

Jesus selected the twelve purposefully!

III. Jesus selected the twelve knowing their person fully. vs. 16-19

* **This is the who!**

A. Jesus selected men diverse in personality to be His apostles.

* Each imperfect, flawed and sinful, men of flesh and blood.

1. Simon was impetuous, impulsive, impatient, presumptuous, inconsistent, inquisitive, proud, arrogant, forward and rash.
- 2, 3. James and John were hot heads, wanting to call fire down from heaven on the Samaritans for rejecting Christ, selfish, envious and self-seeking. Lk. 9:54
4. Andrew was peaceful, did what he had to do, stable, focused, the complete opposite of Peter his brother, both raised in the same home, different as night and day.
5. Philip was pragmatic, prejudice, critical and slow to comprehend.
6. Bartholomew or Nathaniel was a skeptic, “can any good come out of Nazareth?”,

when Philip told him he had found the Messiah, a student of the word of God believing the promise of the coming Messiah and when Jesus revealed his reading of the Scriptures under the fig-tree, He believed, “You are the Son of God”.

7. Matthew was considered the lowest of men, notoriously dishonest, a Publican that fleeced not only their own countrymen, but also the government who they worked for, categorized with prostitutes and sinners barred from the synagogue.
8. Thomas was courageous standing alone with Jesus at the death of Lazarus, “Let us also go that we may die with him”, unintimidated and unpretentious, “Lord, we do not **know** where You are going, and how can we **know** the **way**?” And yes he doubted and would only believe by putting his fingers on the nail-print hads and side of Jesus, but that did not make him a doubter all the time.
9. James the son of Alphaeus we know very little about him, but he was present at many of the miracles that Jesus performed, at the feeding of the 5,000, the healing of the blind man, the calming of the sea of Galilee and the restoring of Malchus ear in the Garden.
10. Thaddaeus was his surname, also named Lebbaeus, and Judas, the son of James, we do not have much information, but he was

committed, faithful and obedient as a disciple and apostle.

11. Simon the Zealot was a committed terrorist and assassin, who had vowed to the death to oppose Rome in every way, by every means and at every opportunity!
 12. Judas was a liar, a thief, one that rejected the many opportunities Jesus gave him to repent and the ultimate betrayer of Jesus, despite having spent three and a half years with Jesus, preached the gospel, used for miracles and cast out demons.
- B.** Jesus selected men diverse in social and economic levels to be His apostles.
1. Peter, James and John were fishermen along with Andrew.
* James and John had a prosperous business needing hired servants. Mk. 1:20
 2. Matthew was a tax collector considered a traitor and enemy to his people, wealthy. Mk. 2:13-14
 3. Simon the Canaanite, the Zealot, a radical zealous Jew who swore to oppose anyone and everything that Opposed and threatened the independence of Israel.
 4. Judas Iscariot, the Son of Perdition, the treasurer that pilfered the bag.
* God chooses ordinary people knowing all their weaknesses and flaws. Also

recognizing their positive qualities that will be enhanced by His grace and Spirit!

- C. Jesus selected three groups of four apostle in each.
1. The first group of four were the most intimate in fellowship with Jesus.
 - a. Peter.
 - b. Andrew.
 - c. James.
 - d. John.
 2. The second group of four, were less intimate in fellowship with Jesus.
 - a. Philip.
 - b. Bartholomew or Nathanael.
 - c. Thomas.
 - e. Matthew.
 3. The third group of four, were the lest intimate in fellowship with Jesus.
 - a. James the son of Alphaeus.
 - b. Labbaeus or Thaddaeus.
 - c. Simon the Cannanite.
 - d. Judas Ischariot.
 4. The lists be it in the gospels or Acts there is a leader for each group, the first of each group is the leader.
 - a. Peter is the leader for the first group of four.
 - b. Philip is the leader for the second group of four.

- c. James the son of Alphaeus is the leader for the third group of four.
5. The man Peter is a disciple and apostle that stands at the top of the twelve.
 - a. Four times the list appears and every time Peter is the first. Matt. 10:2-4; Mk. 3:16-19; Lk. 6:14-16; Acts 1:13
 - b. The only other that it is true of is Judas Iscariot, he is last.
 - c. The names of the others vary in many respects, but the groupings are the same in all four lists, being grouped in fours and the first in each list of four is the leader.
 - d. The three groups, each having a leader, therefore each group having intimate close fellowship.

Illustration

God selected Moses knowing all about him and his excuses, but also knew He would respond to the call.

Application

1. You need to recognize that God has saved and ordained you, knowing your personality and character, knowing that as you come to Him He will use you as His ambassador.
 - a. God has made each of us different and unique to each other.
 - b. God will use our personal lives to reach others.

- c. God will mold and shape us to His image more and more.
- d. God will equip you with spiritual gifts you're your service in the church.

* "Now then, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." 2Cor. 5:20

2. You need to recognize that God has saved you as a mixed group socially and economically to glorify Himself.

- a. Some of you are single.
- b. Some of you are married.
- c. Some of you are single parents.
- d. Some of you are barely making it.
- e. Some of you are comfortable,
- f. Some of you are well off.

* "For we are His **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Eph. 2:10

Jesus selected the twelve knowing their person fully!

Conclusion

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