

LUKE 6:12–16 NIV

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and **spent the night praying** to God. ¹³When morning came, he called his disciples to him and **chose twelve...**

MATTHEW 5:23–24 NIV

"...if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister **has something against you**, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First **go and be reconciled to them**; then come and offer your gift."

MATTHEW 18:15–17 ESV

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, **between you and him** alone. If he **listens** to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, **take one or two others along** with you, that **every charge** may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church..."

YOU CAN'T SHAKE THE OFFENSE?

1. **GO SOON**
2. **GO WITH HUMILITY**
3. **GO WITH GOOD MOTIVES**
4. **GO AGAIN**

BAD THINKING THAT PERPETUATES BAD RELATIONSHIPS:

"It's their move. They know exactly what they did."

"Talking to them won't do any good."

"This relationship isn't worth the hassle."

"I don't deserve to be treated this way."

"Everyone is better off without me."

"Relationships shouldn't take this much work."

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12–27 NLT

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. **So it is with the body of Christ...** ¹⁶...if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body?

¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear?...¹⁸But our bodies have many parts, and **God has put each part just where he wants it.** ¹⁹**How strange a body would be if it had only one part!** ²¹**...The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you."** ...some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary...**all the members care for each other.** ²⁶If one part **suffers**, all the parts **suffer with it**, and if one part is **honored**, all the parts are **glad.** ²⁷**All of you together are Christ's body**, and each of you is a part of it.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:25 THE MESSAGE PARAPHRASE

The way God designed our bodies **is a model for understanding our lives together as a church**: every part dependent on every other part...

JOHN 13:34–35 NIV

"...Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

TOGETHER FOR A REASON:

MY LOVE FOR OTHER FOLLOWERS POINTS THE WORLD TO JESUS

FOLLOWERS OF JESUS ARE REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH THEIR ANGER TOWARD EACH OTHER:

1 JOHN 3:15, ECCLESIASTES 7:9, 1 CORINTHIANS 13:5, EPHESIANS 4:26, JAMES 1:19-20

FOLLOWERS OF JESUS ARE DEVOTED TO LOVINGLY HELP EACH OTHER CORRECT:

GALATIANS 6:1, JAMES 5:19-20, ROMANS 14:19, MATTHEW 18:15-17

IF THIS IS A MAJOR HANGUP FOR YOU, **WATCH FOR OUR 'FREEDOM GROUPS' IN JANUARY.**

THE 12 DISCIPLES WERE DISTINCT IN STATUS, BACKGROUND, GIFTING & PERSONALITY. THIS WAS A PROBLEMATIC MIXTURE, RIPE WITH POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT:

Peter, James, and John were invited by Jesus into unique experiences. MK 5:37,9:2,14:33
John claims a close connection with Jesus that seems distinct. JN 13:23–26,19:25–27,21:7
Peter was often given distinction from the others. JN 1:42, MK 3:16, LK 5:3, MT 14:28–29, MT 16:16–18, MT 17:24–27, LK 22:31–32, MK 14:37, MK 16:7, LK 24:34, 1 COR 15:5

MATTHEW

- very likely despised by Israelites for partnering with Rome as a tax collector MATT 9:9, MATT 10:3
- gathered other tax collectors and social outcasts to encounter Jesus MATTHEW 9:10–13
- wrote a deliberately structured Gospel account, reflecting his intelligence and thorough study
- wrote with the Gospel most aimed at the people of Israel, indicating a radical change of heart

SIMON “THE ZEALOT”

- apparently part of a violent sect that opposed any sign of Roman rule in Israel LK 6:15; ACTS 1:13

PETER

- often bold & impulsive: asked to walk on water, dove into water immediately MT 14:28–29, JN 21:7
- entered Jesus’ empty tomb first, even though John had reached it sooner JOHN 20:4–8
- often acted as the spokesman for the group, even disagreeing with Jesus JN 6:68–69, MT 16:15–23
- over-estimated his own courage and loyalty MATT 26:33–35
- lashed out in violence when Jesus was arrested JOHN 18:10–11
- appears competitive with John, asking about their respective futures JOHN 21:20–22
- was possibly the only married disciple MATT 8:14–15, MARK 1:30, LUKE 4:38, 1 COR 9:5

JAMES AND JOHN

- may have come from a comparatively wealthy fishing household MARK 1:19–20
- Jesus nicknamed them the “Sons of Thunder” – possibly forceful & judgmental MARK 3:17
- suggest calling fire from heaven to burn those who didn’t receive Jesus’ message LUKE 9:52–55
- request roles of honor above their fellow disciples MARK 10:35–40

JOHN

- could be protective of the disciples’ privileged position MARK 9:38–40, LUKE 9:49–50
- appears especially relational and conscious of Jesus’ love for him JN 13:23, 19:26, 21:7,20
- wrote the most unique of the four Gospels, with powerful glimpses of Jesus GOSPEL OF JOHN
- apparently had greater access to the high priest’s household than the other disciples JN 18:15–16
- apparently faster than Peter, and very proud of this ☺ JOHN 20:3–8

THOMAS

- was cautious and wanted tangible substantiation before believing JOHN 20:24–29
- appears intensely loyal and prepared to follow Jesus into danger JOHN 11:16
- spoke candidly when he did not understand Jesus JOHN 14:5

PHILIP

- approached difficulties practically and calculated what was humanly possible JOHN 6:5–7
- wanted visible clarity to satisfy his understanding JOHN 14:8–9
- was approachable to outsiders seeking access to Jesus JOHN 12:20–22
- appears timid, recruiting Andrew’s help to introduce the outsiders to Jesus JOHN 12:20–22
- appears to be a loving gatherer, quickly bringing Nathanael to Jesus JOHN 1:44–45

ANDREW

- appears to be a relational connector, bringing others quickly to meet Jesus JN 1:40–42,12:20–22
- apparently observant, noticing the boy with a lunch that was multiplied to feed 5,000 JN 6:8–9

NATHANAEL

- appears skeptical and blunt in his assumptions JOHN 1:45–46
- identified by Jesus as sincere and free of deceit JOHN 1:47
- appears quick to respond and believe JOHN 1:48–49

JUDAS ISCARIOT – the TRAITOR

- “Iscaiot” likely means “Man of Kerioth” a town in southern Judea – unlike the Galilean disciples
- apparently seemed financially responsible & trustworthy JOHN 12:6, JOHN 13:29
- falsely appeared concerned for the poor JOHN 12:4–6



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7 TRENDS THAT
INVITE PEACE
FOR THOSE IN
YOUR HOME.

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