

## **Brick by Brick – Building A Healthy Faith**

### **Called On Purpose, For a Purpose**

#### **Mark 3:13-19**

What goes into the construction of a long-lasting, firmly fixed, battle-tested type of faith? What are the components? This new series will provide some answers.

*“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”* **Matthew 7:13-14**

**De-Construction:** process whereby an individual who once faithfully followed Jesus walks away from his or her faith, possibly to apathy or to antagonism.

*“And he went up on the mountain & called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him & he might send them out to preach & have authority to cast out demons. He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James the son of Zebedee & John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); Andrew, & Phillip, & Bartholomew, & Matthew, & Thomas, & James the son of Alphaeus, & Thaddaeus, & Simon the Zealot, & Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.”* **Mark 3:13-19**

#### **Two Parts to a Healthy Faith:**

##### **I. Called to an Intimate Relationship with God**

*“Jesus answered them, ‘Did I not choose you, the twelve?’”* **John 6:70**

*“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God choose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”* **1 Corinthians 1:26-29**

Notice the phrasing in Mark 3: *Jesus called those whom he desired, and they came to him.* Why? *So that they might be with him.* What an incredible truth!

**Questions about Calling:** Are you aware of your need for God? Do you know what God has done to meet that need? Your affirmative answers to those two questions are evidence of God’s calling on your life to himself. His desires for you are sincere!

*“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”* **2 Peter 3:9**

#### **Main Idea: Healthy Faith Is Rooted in a Calling from God**

##### **II. Called to Fulfill a Purpose for God**

*“And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles)...that he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.”* **Mark 3:14-15**

**Original Apostles (sent ones):** There were 12 apostles who functioned as the original messengers of the gospel and formed the foundation of the church. There were three criteria

they had to meet: 1) witness the resurrected Christ (1 Cor 9:1), 2) be chosen by the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:15), and 3) perform signs, miracles, wonders (Acts 2:43). These three were required for “apostleship”.

**Modern Apostles (sent ones):** The apostolic gifting is still very much in use today. Missionaries, church planters, and others sent with the express purpose of evangelizing the lost and establishing churches do so with an apostolic gifting.

*“In a sense, all followers of Jesus Christ are called to be apostles. We are all to be His ambassadors. We are all to be ‘ones who are sent out’. We are all to be preachers of the good news.”* **Alexander Strauch**

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* **Ephesians 2:10**

God has something in mind for you. Doubt creeps in whenever we lose sight of the intimacy we have with God and also forgetting the purpose for which God called us. Thomas was called as an Apostle, but God may be calling you differently, to be a source of light, hope, and peace in an otherwise chaotic world. God may be calling you to a loving relationship with a family member who needs you right now. There are a number of ways that God uses people like you and me, but the foundation of it all is an intimate relationship with himself! It’s all about Jesus.

#### **Main Idea: Healthy Faith Is Rooted in a Calling from God**

**Conclusion:** Thomas gets a bad rap because of one famous moment of doubt. Yet, that’s not the whole picture. Some of us feel the same way. We want to be bold in our faith, we want to be used by God, but we feel that our failings prevent us from experiencing our full potential. There was more to Thomas’s story and there can be more to yours. Consider this moment...

*“So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’”* **John 11:16**

**Invitation:** Jesus is calling you to himself, and out of that relationship he will begin to reveal your purpose in life. Are you willing to say yes? If so, this is the origin of a healthy faith being built brick by brick.

#### **Sources & Further Reading Opportunities**

- *Apostolic Imagination* – J.D. Payne (2022)
- *Before You Lose Your Faith* – Ivan Mesa (2021)
- *What is an Apostle?* – Alexander Strauch (2022)
- *Holeman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* – Holeman (2003)
- *Luke: Evangelical Commentary on the Bible* – T. Schreiner (1995)

