

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Chris discusses the concept of the '12th man' using the biblical story of Matthias, who was chosen to replace Judas as the 12th apostle. He parallels this with the story of E. King Gill, a Texas A&M student who suited up and stood ready to play when the football team was depleted by injuries, becoming the inspiration for the school's '12th man' tradition. The sermon emphasizes that God is looking for people who will step up when positions are vacant, serve faithfully even when not in the spotlight, and be willing to continue God's work.

Pastor Chris calls on believers to be the '12th man' in their own lives - to stand for biblical truth, speak up for Christ, and take action without waiting to be told. He references the recent martyrdom of Charlie Kirk and suggests that his death should inspire Christians to step up and continue the mission of spreading the Gospel. The message challenges listeners to stop being spectators and instead get involved in serving God's kingdom, whether through greeting at church, witnessing to neighbors, or standing for biblical values in society.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to receive what You have for us. Lord, just as You called Matthias to step up and fill a crucial role, we pray that You would reveal to each of us how we can be Your '12th man' in this world. Help us to see the opportunities around us to serve You faithfully, even when we're not in the spotlight. Guide our conversation today and show us how we can apply these truths to our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What was your favorite team sport growing up, and did you prefer being a starter or did you enjoy supporting the team in other ways?

Key Verses

- Acts 1:23-26
- 1 Samuel 17:29
- Isaiah 5:20
- Matthew 9:37

Questions

- What does the story of Matthias teach us about faithfulness even when we're not in the spotlight?
- Pastor Chris mentioned that 'the 12th man never should have been a personality.' How does this apply to our service in the church?
- In what areas of your life do you feel God might be calling you to 'stand when the position is vacant'?
- How can we overcome the tendency to wait for 'perfect conditions' before stepping up to serve God?
- The sermon states, 'Don't watch the field from the stands. Get in the game.' What's keeping you on the sidelines in your spiritual life?
- How might the church look different if every member approached their role with the readiness of the '12th man'?
- Pastor Chris mentioned several biblical examples of people who stepped up when needed (Joshua after Moses, Elisha after Elijah). Which biblical example of succession or stepping up resonates most with you and why?
- What specific action can you take this week to be more engaged in God's mission rather than just observing?

Life Application

This week, identify one area in your life where you've been sitting on the sidelines rather than actively participating in God's work. It might be at church, in your neighborhood, at work, or with your family. Commit to taking one specific action to 'suit up' and get involved. This could be volunteering for a ministry need, having a spiritual conversation with a coworker, inviting someone to church, or standing up for biblical truth in a difficult situation. Remember, you don't need to have it all figured out - you just need to be willing to step up when God calls.

Key Takeaways

- God is looking for people who will stand up and fill vacant positions in His kingdom work, not for personal glory but for God's glory.
- Being faithful in a supporting role is just as important as being in the spotlight - serve faithfully even if you're not the 'starter.'
- Don't wait for perfect conditions or complete understanding before stepping up to serve - willingness is more important than expertise.
- The mission of sharing the Gospel continues regardless of opposition or loss - each believer must decide whether they will be 'dressed out or sitting out.'

- True ambassadors of Christ align their entire lives - including their politics, values, and actions - with biblical truth.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the powerful reminder that You call each of us to be Your '12th man' in this world. We acknowledge that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Give us courage to step up when positions are vacant, to serve faithfully even when we're not in the spotlight, and to continue Your work without waiting for perfect conditions. Forgive us for the times we've been spectators rather than participants in Your kingdom work. This week, help us to identify where You're calling us to suit up and get in the game. May we honor You by being faithful ambassadors who represent Your truth in every area of our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.