

We are going to embark on a study about the first individuals Jesus chose to follow him. Their names are listed in 4 different passages in the Gospels and Acts.

Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:12-16; Acts 1:12-14

What do we learn about these men just from these lists?

---

---

What about these men?

1. They were \_\_\_\_\_ men.

There is nothing spectacular about their credentials. They didn't walk with halos around their heads. They were all young men. John, the youngest was probably in his late teens. Peter the oldest was in his late 20's. Most of them were probably married. Matt 8:14-15, 1 Cor 9:1-5. They also had varying backgrounds from fishermen to a tax collector who worked for the Roman government, to a zealot who hated the Roman government.

Why did Jesus pick such a mixed group? \_\_\_\_\_

2. They were \_\_\_\_\_ men.

These men when they were chosen were rough around the edges. They weren't picked because they all had their act together spiritually. For instance:

- a. They wanted to destroy a town that wouldn't welcome Jesus. Luke 9:51-56
- b. They often lacked faith in Jesus and his abilities. Matthew 8:26, 14:31, 16:8.

What do you think their lack of faith reveal about them? Rom. 10:17

3. They were \_\_\_\_\_ men.

Apostle: This term derives from Greek, *Apostolos* which means literally "one sent out" but usually referred to naval expeditions and sometimes messengers and ambassadors. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. (the reference to Naval Expeditions is interesting in that Jesus called them to "fish for people").

These twelve were given special authority to go out and deliver Christ's message on Christ's behalf. They received a special commission from Jesus and later, with the addition of another to take the place of Judas, served as the foundation of the church. Ephesians 2:20

Qualifications to be an apostle:

1. Ability to perform signs, wonders, and miracles. 2. Cor 12:11-13
2. Been with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry (John's Baptism and seen Him raised. Acts 1:12-17, 20-26.

These qualifications recorded in Acts were given by Peter, not the LORD. Peter and the other disciples had not received the Holy Spirit yet so they may or may not be true qualifications. The process they used may or may not have been appropriate at that time. (Casting of Lots was common in the Old Testament for making decisions, (Prov. 16:33; Lev. 16:7-10) However Jesus was ushering in a new era, one in which His people are to be led by the Holy Spirit. (John 14:26).

- Jesus didn't tell Peter to lead a business meeting. He told him and the others to wait for the Holy Spirit! (Acts 1:4-5)
- Only Jesus has the authority to pick who will be His apostles. John 6:70-71
- The apostles are the foundation of the church (Eph. 2:20) The New Testament is the foundation of teaching for the church of Jesus Christ and Paul wrote more of the New Testament than any other!
- Much of the book of Acts is about Paul's missionary journeys. His story takes over in the Biblical narrative and the original 11 fall into the background.
- Paul had a powerful testimony to validate His authority to claim the role of apostle to the Gentiles 2 years after Jesus Ascended to heaven.

Paul's Conversion. Acts 9:1-15

Paul's Testimony 1 Corinthians 15:1-7; Galatians 1:11-11-24

IN this study our hope is to build our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and see how he used ordinary people like you and I to accomplish the mission to reach the world with the Gospel! We are part of that mission today- and may we see that although we are not Apostles in the sense of being foundational to the church, we are part of God's household are to continue the mission started 2000 years ago with just a few men - and women.