

# **“The Master’s Men”**

## **Luke 6:12-16**

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### **I. Introduction**

- A. Throughout redemptive history, God has chosen to use ordinary people to do extraordinary things.
  - 1. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in our Lord’s choice of the twelve apostles, common, ordinary men
  - 2. “...they were unlearned and ignorant men...they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13)
  - 3. Jesus’ days are numbered, so he chose twelve men to carry on His ministry and through whom He would change the world

### **II. The Setting** (Luke 6:12)

- A. The time
  - 1. “In those days”
- B. The place
- C. The prayer (v. 12)
  - 1. If Jesus is God, why would He pray?
  - 2. What was He praying for?
    - a) The Father’s will
    - b) (John 17:6)
  - 3. If Jesus felt the need to pray before an important decision, how much more should we?
  - 4. (John 15:5)
  - 5. Why pray?
    - a) Jesus prayed (Luke 18)
    - b) The disciples prayed
    - c) The apostles prayed
    - d) The early Christians prayed
    - e) We are commanded to pray
  - 6. Pray for wisdom to do God’s will

### **III. The Selecting** (Luke 6:13-16)

- A. Disciples (v. 13)
  - 1. He chose twelve
  - 2. He named them apostles
- B. The twelve
  - 1. The church should pray before it selects its spiritual leaders
  - 2. It is God who calls and chooses, not man
  - 3. There are four lists in the New Testament of the apostles
    - a) (Matthew 10)
    - b) (Mark 3)

- c) (Luke 6)
  - d) (Acts 1)
  - 4. We don't know why. Many believe the groups are arranged according to their intimacy with Jesus and their service to Him
  - 5. Peter is always the first to be listed, and Judas Iscariot is always last.
    - a) They were all from Galilee except for Judas
    - b) Most were fishermen, and one was a tax collector
    - c) They were not rich
    - d) They were common men
  - 6. "All of the twelve men of modest means and humble stations in life; they were men of moderate ability, and most of their names are still obscure; yet they were the first leaders and the real organizers of the most important society that the world has known, and their names are yet to be graven on the foundations of the Holy City, the light of which is to fill the earth with glory." – Charles R. Erdman
- C. Group of four (v. 14)
- 1. Simon, whom he also named Peter
    - a) Walked on water
    - b) "Build my church"
    - c) (Acts 1-13)
  - 2. Andrew, his brother
    - a) The friendly apostle
    - b) The first to follow Jesus
    - c) He first finds his own brother
    - d) He brought the little boy with His two fish
  - 3. James and John
    - a) Also, brothers
    - b) Sons of Thunder
    - c) Their mom went to Jesus
- D. Second group of four (vv. 14-15)
- 1. Philip
    - a) (John 14:8)
  - 2. Bartholomew
    - a) Called "Nathanael" in John's gospel
    - b) (John 1)
  - 3. Matthew (v. 15)
    - a) "Levi"
  - 4. Thomas (v. 15)
    - a) "We don't know the way"
    - b) "I won't believe until I see"
- E. Third group of four
- 1. James the Son of Alphaeus (v. 15)
    - a) Also called "James the Less"
    - b) We know nothing about him
    - c) He is known in heaven
  - 2. Simon the Zealot (v. 15)
    - a) Thaddaeus or Lebbaeus
    - b) (Matthew 10:3)
    - c) (Mark 3:18)

3. Judas Iscariot
  - a) “The traitor”
  - b) Lost opportunity
  - c) Danger of loving money
  - d) Satan is always at work in the church
  - e) Sinful man cannot thwart the sovereign will of God

#### **IV. The Sending (Luke 6:13)**

- A. “Whom also he named apostles” (v. 13)
  1. Sent out a messenger or ambassador
  2. Why?
    - a) To be with him (Mark 3:14)
      - 1) Jesus chose them to be His friends
    - b) To send them out
      - 1) To preach with power
    - c) To evangelize to the world (Acts 1:8)

#### **V. Their Significance**

- A. They were the foundation of the church
  1. (Ephesians 2:20)
- B. They received revelation that was not known by Old Testament saints
  1. (Ephesians 3:5)
  2. The church
  3. The Rapture
- C. They were given to edify the church
  1. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- D. They were given a miraculous power to confirm their message
  1. (2 Corinthians 12:12)
  2. The signs of an apostle
- E. Scripture
  1. All things for you to remember
- F. Their names on the foundation of the New Jerusalem

#### **VI. Their Shortcomings**

- A. They lacked spiritual understanding
  1. (Matthew 16)
- B. They lacked humility
  1. Illustration- Who is the greatest?
- C. They lacked faith
  1. Illustration- On the sea in the storm— “Lord save us”
- D. They lacked power
  1. (Matthew 17)
- E. They lacked courage
  1. Illustration- In the garden, Peter denied Him, the others forsook him and hid in fear

- F. And yet, with all their flaws, they turned the world upside down
  - 1. (Acts 2)
  - 2. The Holy Spirit
  - 3. Illustration- Peter filled with the Spirit

## **VII. Conclusion**

- A. If Jesus lived in dependent prayer, so should we
  - 1. The secret of a strong spiritual life is a life dependent on prayer
- B. If God uses ordinary people, He can and will use us
  - 1. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
- C. If out of the twelve the master chose, one was false, there will always be false Christians among the true Christians