

Great Stories of the Bible - 04/27/22

Calling The Twelve

TEXT- Mark 3:13-21 *And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve,*

INTRO – Most beginnings are humble at the start. Five humble men, Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathanael, and another unnamed, probably John! They were all likely followers of John the Baptist.

I. The Calling of the Apostles

Andrew and another Apostle were following John when he stated “The Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world.”

Andrew gets his brother **Peter** and **Philip** who lived in the same town.

Philip finds **Nathanael**’

John 1:47 *Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!*

John 1:43 *The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.*

Matthew 4:19 *And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

Mark 1:17 *And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.*

Matthew 4:21-22 *And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. 22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.*

Luke 5:10 *And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.*

Luke 5:27 *And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.*

Mark 3:13 *And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.*

Why Twelve? Important numbers in the Bible

The book of Numbers

Number 1 - Unity Monotheistic God

Number 3 - Trinity

Number 6 – Number of man, humanity

Number 7 – Perfection, 7 days of creation, Jacob served 7 years

Number 12 – Spiritual authority

Number 70 – Preaching of Judgment

Significance of the number twelve:

Twelve tribes of Israel

Twelve sacrificed animals

Twelve pillars

Twelve gates etc.

Twelve Apostles

Twelve baskets taken up

II. The Purpose of Their Calling

apostolos "one sent forth" (apo, "from," stello, "to send"). The twelve disciples chosen by the Lord for special training were so called, [Luk 6:13: 9:10](#). **Acts 1:22** *Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.* Paul was commissioned directly, by the Lord Himself, after His Ascension, to carry the gospel to the Gentiles.

Our Lord's Apostles.—1. Laymen, unconnected with the priesthood.

2. Unlearned men, unconnected with traditional philosophy.

3. Plain men, unconnected with the false culture and the pomp of the world.

4. Pious Israelites.

5. Believers in the Messiah.

6. Disciples.

7. Men of gifts, and diverse a character

The "signs" of an apostle were:

(1) They were chosen directly by the Lord Himself

(2) They were endued with sign gifts, miraculous powers which were the divine credentials of their office [Mat 10:1](#); [Act 5:15](#); [Act 5:16](#);

(3) Their relation to the kingdom was that of announcing to Israel only [Mat 10:5](#); [Mat 10:6](#) the kingdom as at hand.

(4) To Peter was given the keys of the kingdom of heaven, viewed as the sphere of Christian profession, as in Matthew 13, were given [Mat 16:19](#).

(5) Their future relation to the king will be that of judges over the twelve tribes [Mat 19:28](#).

(6) Upon the rejection of the kingdom, and the revelation of the mystery hid in God [Mat 16:18](#); [Eph 3:1-12](#) the Church, the apostolic office was invested with a new enduement, the baptism with the Holy Spirit [Act 2:1-4](#) a new power, that of imparting the Spirit to Jewish-Christian believers; a new relation, that of foundation stones of the new temple [Eph 2:20-22](#) and a new function, that of preaching the glad tidings of salvation through a crucified and risen Lord to Jew and gentile alike.

(7) The indispensable qualification of an apostle was that he should have been an eye- witness of the resurrection [Act 1:22](#); [1Co 9:1](#).

1 Corinthians 12:28-29 *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?*

Mark 3:14-15 *And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:*

Jesus taught them to be fishers of men

Jesus taught them to pray

Luke 11:1 *And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.*

Jesus taught them the beatitudes – Matthew 5

Jesus taught them kingdom lessons on behavior Matthew 6-7

III. The Results of Their Ministry

They testified of Jesus and peached salvation

Mark 16:15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

5000 saved on the day of Pentecost

Started churches in Jerusalem Judea, Samaria and Europe

Acts 17:6 *And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;*

They became the foundation of the church.

Ephesians 2:20-22 *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

CONCL – Men of faith are needed to be followers of God today.

Fishers of men and followers of God.