

How do you respond when He calls?

Matthew 10:1 And when **he had called** unto *him* his

twelve disciples, he gave them

power *against* unclean spirits, to cast

them out, and to heal all manner of

sickness and all manner of disease. 2 Now

the names of the **twelve apostles** are these; The

first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother;

James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip,

and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican;

James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname

was Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot,

who also betrayed him.

- My story when I felt God wanted me to be a missionary

1. The Master Jesus is doing His work **1** **And when he had called** *unto him* his **twelve disciples,** he gave them power **against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.**

- a. The focus must be on Jesus even as you learn about the 12 apostles
- b. We fail often because we see the man side of every story and do not consider what God is doing
- c. This is Jesus starting His ministry
 - i. He chose the men
 - ii. He gave them power and ability to do the job He had called them to do
 - iii. There were many disciples but only 12 disciples or apostles
- d. He is calling out His staff
 - i. These will be His right hand men

- ii. They will be His helpers
- iii. They will carry on His work once He is gone
- e. He is equipping them to do the ministry that He has for

them [1](#) **And when he had called** unto *him* his

twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

- i. They have power over demons
- ii. They are able to heal people
- iii. These are the signs of an apostle

[II Corinthians 12:12](#) Truly the **signs of an apostle** were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

- f. Imagine how Jesus looked out at the people chose to serve Him [II Chronicles 16:9](#) For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, **to shew**

himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose **heart is perfect** toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

- i. As He chose those men His purpose was to show His power
- ii. Imagine the privilege of being a person used of God
 - 1. David as he killed Goliath
 - 2. Daniel as God closed the lions' mouth
 - 3. 3 Hebrew young men who would stand no matter the risk
 - 4. D. L. Moody who with no education would be used of God to evangelize the English speaking world
 - 5. George Muller who would see God feed and cloth 2000 orphans by simply praying and believing God
- iii. In this verse God was looking for someone who loved Him with all their heart
- iv. God is looking, what does He see when He looks in your direction
- g. You should get the idea that God can use your life as well

- i. You do not have to be flashy and special
- ii. I believe the cry and call still go forth **Isaiah 6:8** **Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.**
- iii. Consider this letter that Adoniram Judson wrote to Luther Rice as he looked for people to work in Burma with him

Mr BELOVED BROTHER RICE :

In encouraging other young men to come out as missionaries, do use the greatest caution.

One wrong-headed, conscientiously obstinate fellow would ruin us.

*Humble, quiet, persevering men ; men of sound, sterling talents, (though, perhaps, not brilliant,) of **decent accomplishments**, and some natural aptitude to acquire a language ; men of an amiable, **yielding temper**, willing to **take the lowest place**, to be the least of all and the servants of all; men who enjoy **much closet religion**, who live near to God, and are*

willing to suffer all things for Christ's sake, without being proud of it, these are the men.

But O, how unlike to this description is the writer of it! Still, however, I am, with never ceasing affection, Your most affectionate brother in the Lord,

A. JUDSON, JR.

2. The Men **2** Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The **first, Simon**, who is called Peter, and **Andrew** his brother; **James** *the son* of Zebedee, and **John** his brother; **3 Philip**, and **Bartholomew; Thomas**, and **Matthew** the publican; **James** *the son* of Alphaeus, and **Lebbaeus**, whose surname was Thaddaeus; **4 Simon** the Canaanite, and **Judas Iscariot**, who also betrayed him.

a. Ordinary men

- i. No real wealth, just kind of middle class
 - 1. A tax collector with maybe more money than some
 - 2. Some fishers whose families own boats, nets, and had employees
 - 3. No one with real education
 - 4. No one with any social advantage
 - 5. Jesus did choose these men for who they were but for who He could make them
 - 6. He saw them like they were but He also saw them like He would make them
 - 7. His leadership and influence was about to change their world
- ii. He chose an unusual collection of men
 - 1. A tax collector who was basically a traitor to his people **Matthew the publican**
 - 2. He chose a patriot and lover of his country, the opposite of Matthew, in **Simon the Canaanite, Luke 6:15 Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and **Simon called Zelotes,****
 - a. Zelotes means Zealot
 - b. They were the “tea party” of their day

- c. They would call no man on earth their king
 - d. They were prepared to suffer and die to get rid of the foreign rule over them-the Romans
 - e. They were extreme nationalists
 - f. Had Simon met Matthew outside of his relationship with Jesus he would have hated him and even tried to run him through with a dagger
- b. They were chosen men **Mark 3:14** **And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,**
- i. They weren't just chosen to work, to be staff
 - ii. They were chosen to know Him
 - iii. They were chosen to have a very close and personal friendship with Him
 - iv. They were chosen to share life with Him
 - v. They were chosen to be with Him
 - vi. These are ministry principles for you
 - 1. You should be with Him
 - a. He lives in you, you are His temple
 - b. He guides and directs us

c. You can spend time with Him in His Word and prayer

2. You should learn to share life with others

a. with-nes

b. life on life discipleship

c. Give of yourself to help others grow

c. They were called

i. He doesn't use the word force or compel here

ii. Jesus invites you also

iii. He is looking for volunteers not those He coerces

iv. When I was a child I thought that getting into the ministry was when God knocked you in the head, killed your children, crippled you, or at least threatened it all

v. It was something everyone ran from.

vi. These men accepted the call

vii. I run to Him and desire to be used of Him, have my life count

3. The Ministry [Mark 3:14](#) And he ordained twelve, that they should **be with him**, and that he might **send them forth to preach**,

- a. These men were ordained or appointed
- b. This is the idea of of a general giving a task to his commanders
- c. They were His twelve apostles [2](#) Now the names of the **twelve apostles** are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James *the son of Zebedee*, and John his brother;
- d. They came out of a much larger group of disciples
 - i. A disciple is a learner
 - ii. A disciple is a listener
- e. Apostle means one who is sent out, an envoy or an ambassador
 - i. They were heralds, messengers
 - ii. They didn't have their own message but His
 - iii. They were with Him, filled by Him, equipped by Him to take His message to the world
- f. Are there apostles today?

- i. In the early church many claimed to be apostles
Revelation 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast **tried them** which **say they are apostles,** and are not, and hast found them liars:
- ii. The early church had been infiltrated by false apostles **II Corinthians 11:13** For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.
- iii. The Bible uses the word apostle primarily to speak of the original 12
 1. The apostles were the foundation of the church
Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;
 2. The people devoted themselves to studying the apostles teachings **Acts 2:42** And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

3. You have the finished Word, the apostle's doctrine.

We have no need for further revelation

iv. Know that Satan deceives many today because that accept things that are not in the Scriptures

II Thessalonians 2:9 *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,* 10 And with **all deceivableness** of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. Revelation 16:14 For they are the **spirits of devils, working miracles,** *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

v. You have the Word of God, inspired and preserved. Trust the Bible it is how you know God, His Will, his Work, everything

- God's work is not done
- He is still calling all of us to serve Him.
- He is Lord and we are His servants
- Our lives should be lived at and for His pleasure

- How will you respond as He directs you
- Your heart longs to do something that matters
- You want to make a difference
- Your whole world constantly pulls you back
- You do not want to be weird, different, unusual
- Today will you offer Him your talents, your time, your treasure
- Will you offer Him everything
- Will you treat Him like He is the master, the real Lord who has every right to your life

Not long ago and not far away, a Nobody named Ordinary lived in the Land of Familiar.

Every day was pretty much the same for Ordinary. In the mornings he got up and went to his Usual Job. After work, he ate almost the same dinner he'd eaten the evening before. Then he sat in his recliner and watched the box that mesmerized most Nobodies on most nights.

Sometimes, Best Friend came over to join Ordinary in front of the box. Sometimes, Ordinary went to his Parents' and they watched together.

For the most part, not much happened in Familiar that hadn't happened before. Ordinary thought he was content. He found the routines reliable. He blended in with the crowd. And mostly, he wanted only what he had.

Until the day Ordinary noticed a small, nagging feeling that something big was missing from his life. Or maybe the feeling was that he was missing from something big. He wasn't sure. The little feeling grew. And even though Nobodies in Familiar didn't generally expect the unexpected, Ordinary began to wish for it.

Time passed. Then one morning Ordinary woke up with these words echoing in his mind: What you're missing, you already have...

Could it be? Ordinary looked and looked. And then he discovered that in a small corner of his heart lay a Big Dream. The Big Dream told him that he, a Nobody, was made to be a Somebody and destined to achieve Great Things.

Jumping out of bed, Ordinary discovered something else—a long white feather resting on the sill of his window. Where did it come from? What did it mean? With a jolt of excitement, Ordinary decided he'd been visited by the Dream Giver. Now, Ordinary had heard rumors of various Nobodies in Familiar waking up to a Big Dream. But he had never imagined that it could happen to him.

He rushed to get dressed, his Big Dream beating brightly in his chest. He couldn't wait to get to his Usual Job and tell Best Friend the news.

But on his way to work, Ordinary realized he had a problem. His Big Dream was too big for a Nobody like Ordinary. He would be embarrassed to tell anyone. Even Best Friend would probably laugh.

Still, Ordinary was too excited to keep his dream to himself. As soon as he saw Best Friend, he blurted out the news: “The Dream Giver gave me a Big Dream! I was made to be a Somebody and destined to achieve Great Things!”

Best Friend looked surprised, but he didn’t laugh. “That’s very...big,” he said. “But if I were you, I wouldn’t talk about this Dream of yours too much. Nobodies around here might take you for a fool.”

Ordinary didn’t want to look like a fool. So after that he kept his Big Dream to himself.

Day after day, Ordinary showed up at his Usual Job. But while he worked, he thought about his Dream. He thought about how wonderful it would be to do what he loved to do instead of just dreaming about it.

Ordinary’s longing for his Big Dream grew and grew, until finally he realized that he’d never be happy unless he could pursue it. Why didn’t the Dream Giver make it possible?

If the Dream Giver didn't, how could Ordinary ever leave Familiar? He had payments and expenses. He had regular duties. A lot of Nobodies counted on him for a lot of things. Ordinary felt completely stuck. Time passed, but nothing changed.

He began to hate his Usual Job. This isn't what I was made to do, he'd say to himself. I just know it!

After a while, he began to worry that maybe he hadn't received a Big Dream after all. Maybe he'd just made it all up. And he grew sadder by the day.

One evening after work, Ordinary went to his Parents' to watch the box. But their box was broken, so the house was very quiet. It was even more quiet because his Mother was out shopping at Familiar Foods.

In the quietness, Ordinary started to think about his Dream again. He looked over at his Father sitting in his recliner, staring at the single page of Nobody's News. Maybe he could help.

“Father,” said Ordinary, “I’m growing sadder by the day. I don’t like my Usual Job anymore. In fact, I think I hate it.”

Father looked up. “That’s terrible!” he said. “What happened?” Before he could stop himself, Ordinary started talking about the Dream Giver, and about his Big Dream. “I was made to be a Somebody and achieve Great Things!” he said. And then he told his Father the Name of his Dream. As he spoke, his voice trembled. He was sure that his Father would laugh or call him a fool.

But his Father didn’t. “I’m not surprised to hear you say these things,” he said.

“You’re not?” said Ordinary.

“No,” his Father said. “You’ve had that Dream ever since you were little. Don’t you remember? You used to build that same dream with sticks and mud in front of this very house.”

Then Ordinary did remember. He'd always had his Dream! It was what he'd always wanted to do, and what he'd always thought he'd be good at doing.

His eyes filled with tears. "Father," he said, "I think I was born to do this."

Ordinary and his Father sat together quietly. His Father seemed to be remembering something, too. After a while he asked, "When you woke up to your Big Dream, Son, did you happen to find...a feather?"

Ordinary was shocked. "How did you know?" he asked.

"A long time ago, I woke up to a Dream, too," his Father said. "And it came with a long white feather. It was a wonderful Dream. I kept the feather on my windowsill while I waited for a chance to pursue it. I waited and waited. But it never seemed possible... One day I noticed the feather had turned to dust." Of all the sad words Ordinary had ever heard, these were the saddest.

Before he left that night, his Father hugged him. "Don't make the same mistake I did, Son," he said. "You don't have to stay a Nobody. You can be a Dreamer!"