

Key Passage: Matthew 10: 1-4

And He called to Himself His twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every sickness and every infirmity. ² Now the names of the twelve apostles are as follows: first, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

1. Scripture reveals that Jesus prayed extensively to His Father before any major event in His life. Paul says we are to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thes. 5:17.) What inhibits our prayer life? How can we overcome those obstacles?
2. John 6: 65 says, “...no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” If we are true believers in Christ, we have been drawn by the Father. Our names entered in the Lamb’s Book of Life. Have you been chosen? Will you go?

Matthew 10 is the follow up to Jesus’ observation in chapter 9: 35-38 when He sees the masses and has compassion for them: harassed and helpless, sheep without shepherds. He tells His disciples to pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

1. PRAYER

And in Matthew 10, Jesus picks the twelve He will spend personal time with training them to be sent out as apostles. Luke 6: 12-16 and Mark 3: 13-19 are parallel passages with Luke adding that the night before He chose His twelve, He went out to the mountain and continued to pray all night to His Father.

John MacArthur: “Whenever Jesus prayed it was quite literally the prayer of God. He was engaged in inter-Trinitarian communion.”

2. THE CHOOSING

Jesus chose twelve men from among His larger group of disciples. Ordinary men. Nothing special about them. They were just like us. Ordinary. He chose fishermen, a tax collector, a terrorist, farmers and tradesmen, and a hypocrite. They had no special abilities or degrees. Sinners just like us. They would dwell on their shortcomings and inadequacies. They would harbor doubts about their abilities. But God would choose them

eleven as the foundation of His church and one “so Scripture could be fulfilled.”

3. THE COMMISSIONING

Jesus set aside twelve men to be laborers of the harvest – to be the foundation of the church – to be the first preachers of the Gospel message.

Disciple – Vine’s Expository Dictionary, “a learner, to learn indicating thought accompanied by endeavor. Denotes one who follows one’s teaching.”

Apostle – Strong’s Concordance; “messenger, he that is sent. From *apostello*; a delegate; especially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ.”

Shlikhe – The Aramaic used by Jesus; “official representative of a higher office holder such as King; carries the same power and authority as the one who sent him, just as if that person had come and said or commanded it in person.

Exousia – Strong’s Concordance; delegated authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.

R.C. Sproul: literally “out of substance” “A delegated authority he preferred to combine as “**authoritative power**” or “**powerful authority**”

The authoritative power was granted the apostles to solidify in anyone’s mind that they were sent directly from Jesus.

Sola Scriptura – the power and authority of God’s Word.

4. THE CHOSEN

Jesus chose Simon, and gave him the name Peter, meaning the Rock, and Andrew his brother. Andrew met Jesus first, then ran and told his brother Simon that he and John had found the Messiah. James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. James was the first apostle martyred and the only apostle’s death recorded in Scripture (Acts 12: 1-3); Philip and Bartholomew (aka Nathanael); Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean (the Zealot), and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

5. THE APPLICATION

What were the apostles set apart to do? Build the church. **How?** By making disciples. **How did they make disciples?** Proclaiming the Gospel... Baptizing those who believed in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... and teaching them to do all Christ commanded.

Spurgeon: “Every child of God is a consecrated (set apart) man (or woman).”

Isaiah 6: 8 “*Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*”