

Exegetical Notes, Luke 6:12-16
“The Apostles”

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Luke 6:12-16

Verse 12

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

- We know that it was Jesus’ habit to pray frequently. This all-night prayer session stresses that what was about to happen was of exceptional importance. Jesus was preparing himself for what was about to happen through prayer.

Verse 13

When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

- When morning came, Jesus summoned his disciples to him and named twelve of them to be apostles.
- Disciples are students of a teacher. In the Bible, the Pharisees have disciples. John the Baptist has disciples. All of the world’s great teachers had disciples. Jesus was no exception. Usually disciples lived with their teacher and were devoted to mastering the things he taught so that they could live his teachings.
- Apostle means “sent one.” The proper English translation of the word is ambassador. The apostle is the one who is chosen to carry the message given him by his boss to someone else. In the church three criteria developed for apostles: (1) they must have been physically present with Jesus on earth; (2) they must have received their invitation to the office of apostle directly from Jesus; and (3) they were invested with miraculous powers like that of Jesus.
- On this day, Jesus lifted certain of his disciples to a higher position among his disciples.

Verse 14-16

Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

- The names of the first apostles are always divided into three groups of four. The first name in every group is always the same. The last name mentioned in every list is Judas Iscariot.
- We believe that the Apostles were the designated leaders of the larger group of Jesus' followers, called his disciples. We believe that the Apostles were organized into subgroups and that Peter was the leader of group one, Philip was the leader of group two, and James was the leader of group three.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *The Apostles*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)