

## Exegetical Notes, Mark 3:13-19

### Apostles Appointed

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#### Mark 3:13-19

##### Verse 13

*Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him.*

- Jesus calls to him those he wants to come to him. Jesus issues the invitation. The initiative is his! His followers are only responding to his call.

##### Verse 14-15

*He appointed twelve -- designating them apostles -- that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.*

- Jesus appoints 12 to be apostles. Again, they do not apply for the job. The boss picked them for the position.
- Apostles are “sent ones.” They are those who carry the message of another.
- They are first to spend time with Jesus. This is their on-the-job training. They are to observe what Jesus does and to listen to what Jesus says. In this way they will learn how to be his apostles.
- After they have been trained, they will be sent out to preach what Jesus has taught them and to have authority over evil spirits. They cannot do what Jesus is calling them to do unless they are willing to spend time with him first.

##### Verse 16

*These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.*

- The lists of the twelve found in the scripture are always divided into three groups of four: Peter, James, John, Andrew... Phillip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas... James, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas. The first name in each of the three groups is always the same. This implies order within the groups and ranking, the first person in each group is apparently the group leader.

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