



NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Supplemental Texts

Ex. 19; 32; 34; Matt. 4:25; 5:1-2; Matt. 9:20-21; 11:21; 14:34-36; Mark 3:7-8, 13-19; 5:24-34; 6:30; 10:45; Luke 3:21; 9:18, 28; 11:1-13; 22:31-32, 39-46; 5:1-11, 17, 27-28; 8:42-48; 9:10; 11:5-8, 49; 17:5; 18:1-8; 22:4; 24:10; John 6:7; 13:18; 15:16, 19; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Eph. 1:3-14; 1 John 1:1-4

Study Summary

In this passage we see Jesus taking an important step in building His new community: the calling of the apostles. This rag tag group of fishermen, tax collectors, and radicals will become the leaders in His master plan of evangelism—leading the way in spreading the good news of the gospel in action and word. Jesus prayerfully considers those He will choose from among His disciples and immediately gets to work showing the apostles what it means to give their lives away for the mission of the Kingdom of God. In His selection we see foreshadowed Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice as He chooses the disciple who will eventually betray Him.

Historical & Theological Background

The term apostle “derives from the verb ‘to send’ and means ‘someone sent’, ‘a messenger’. In Mark 3:14-15 we are given a “description of their task, which was that they might be with Jesus and that he might send them out (ἀποστέλλω) to preach and exorcise.”¹ The meaning of ἀπόστολος is tied to the peculiar character the word has attained as a result of popular-juridical usage which has drawn on its Hebrew equivalent, *šālīḥ*.² “The *šālīḥ* is the direct representative of the one who sends him and can in that person’s place act in a way that is authoritative and legally binding.” The twelve apostles become the representatives of Christ and “in Acts” “comprise the leaders of the church in Jerusalem.” “They are spokesmen for the Church who proclaim the gospel to those outside” “and defend the Jewish Church against attacks.” “Their major responsibility is attending to the tradition and preserving unfalsified teaching (2:42); they” also “authorize the Gentile mission.” “Acts 1:15–26 names the essential criteria which an apostle must meet: he is one who has accompanied the earthly Jesus from the beginning, has been chosen by him,” “has been with him the entire time up to the ascension, and is thus also a witness of the resurrection.” However, there are others throughout the NT given the title of apostle, which gives the impression that there were two classifications for the term. Paul seems to see apostleship “as qualified, primitive Christian missionaries.” “These (partially charismatic) apostles of the congregation are distinguished according to 1 Cor 15:7” “from a limited circle of persons who call themselves apostles of Jesus Christ and trace their apostolic office back to an encounter with the resurrected Lord (cf. 1 Cor 9:1; 15:3f.).” Paul saw himself as an apostle in a special sense, in many ways on par with the twelve, as one called and sent by the resurrected Jesus to evangelize the Gentiles (Gal. 2:8). [Morris, Howard, Exegetical Dictionary]

DISCUSSION PRIMER

This week’s passage deals with the importance of investing our lives in the people and the places around us. As disciples of Jesus we are called to give our lives away in service just as Jesus did Himself. After reading the passage, take time this week to prayerfully consider how you are using your time. Are you wasting time on activities that are not life giving? Are you too busy to serve your church, your family, your neighborhood? Come to group ready to share.

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 6:12-19

Big Idea: Jesus Devoted His Life to Making Disciples
Fallen Condition Focus: Refusing to Invest Your Life

- Why does Luke emphasize Jesus praying (v 12)? When else is Jesus mentioned praying? What is similar about these instances? (See Luke 3:21; 9:18, 28; 11:1-13; 22:31-32, 39-46)
- What is an apostle? What were they called to (v. 13)? (See Mark 3:13-15, 1 John 1:1-4 & HTB)
- What do you noticed about the apostles? How are they different/similar to one another? What qualifications do they bring (v. 14-16)? (Consider Luke 5:1-11, 27-28 & 1 Cor. 1:26-31)
- Is there a significance to Jesus appointing 12 apostles? How is this story reminiscent of the establishment of the people of Israel? (Consider the passage in connection with Ex. 19)
- What does Jesus do after He appoints His apostles (v. 17-19)? Why do the people flock to Jesus? What two things does He do for them (v. 18)?
- How is Jesus giving of Himself in His ministry to the people? What example does He set for the apostles (v. 19)? (Consider Luke 8:45-48)

Gospel Connection: After prayerful consideration, Jesus chooses a betrayer to be His apostle. Read Mark 10:45 and consider the mercy of Christ in knowingly giving His life away to redeem us.

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- What are the priorities of the society around us? How are they different from the priorities that Jesus gives the Church?
- What are your priorities? Where are you investing your life?
- Where might your priorities be misaligned from the mission of God’s Kingdom? What might it look like to bring your priorities more inline with the ways God is working within you and within your community of faith?
- Consider the example of Jesus praying (v. 12). How important is the practice of prayer in your life? How should we pray? (See Luke 11:1-13 and 18:1-14)
- Considered how Jesus chose to focus His investment. Are you making disciples? Are you being discipled? How might we foster these relationships in the church?
- How might you invest your life in the people around you? What would you have to give up to do so?

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read **Luke 6:12-19** and explore together what the passage reveals about:

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| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ? |
| 2) The fallen human condition? | 5) Our obedience to Christ? |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: “So, what now?”

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

- a command to obey? • a beauty to behold? • a mission to fulfill?
- a promise to claim? • a truth to believe? • an example to follow?
- a sin to repent of? • a service to render? • a person to tell?