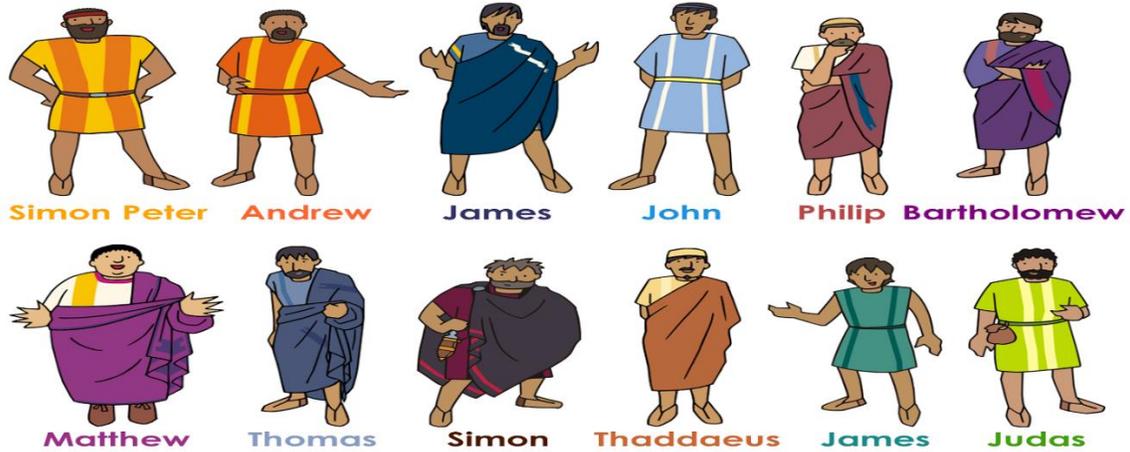


Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

Part 14: The Most Unlikely Team



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Today's Big Question: Can God really use an ordinary person like me?

Luke 6:12-16 (NKJV): The Twelve Apostles

¹² Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. ¹³ And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: ¹⁴ Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; ¹⁵ Matthew and Thomas; James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; ¹⁶ Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.

Let's jump into the message:

The most unlikely team: How ordinary people can change the world!

1. **Jesus sought the face of _____ before He chose His ministry _____** (v. 12).

- Jesus knew that He needed a team to accomplish His life's mission.
- Jesus didn't rush into action until He first sought God's heart in prayer.

Jesus'

prayer life: 5 Aspects of Jesus' Prayer Life

- 1) Jesus prayer life was p_____.
- 2) Jesus prayer life was p_____.
- 3) Jesus prayer life was p_____.
- 4) Jesus prayer life was c_____.
- 5) Jesus prayer life was p_____.

2. **Jesus chose 12 men to be His _____, His followers, and His fellow _____** (v. 13).

- Jesus wanted friends that He could do ministry with.
- Why did Jesus pick the number 12?
- They were named Apostles. What does this mean?
 - 1) An apostle is one who is sent with authority.

1. Authority to proclaim a message.
 2. Authority over sicknesses and disease.
 3. Authority over the realm of the demonic.
- 2) An apostle is one who is sent with a purpose.
1. To proclaim the Gospel.
 2. To pronounce the Kingdom of God.
 3. To be salt and light to a dark world.

Mark 3:14-15: ¹⁴Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, ¹⁵and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons.

3. **Jesus called _____ men to do _____ things for the Kingdom** (v. 14-16).
- Jesus picked a rag team of misfits and called them to do extraordinary things with their lives.

Acts 4:13 (NIV): When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

**Research shows differing accounts from history and church tradition. The only reliable source is the Scripture, outside of that, we can only examine church history.*

Peter:

- Son of Jonah
- Name means "Rock"
- Lived in Capernaum
- Occupation: Fisherman
- Was the spokesman and the leader of the 12 Apostles
- Constantly stuck his foot in his mouth during Jesus' earthly ministry
- Denied Christ 3 times
- Was restored by Jesus after His resurrection
- Preached on the Day of Pentecost and led 3,000 people to Christ!
- According to church history, Peter was crucified upside down.

Andrew:

- Name means "manly"
- Occupation: Fisherman
- Lived in Capernaum
- Peter's brother
- Known for bring people to Jesus
- Later in his ministry, Andrew preached the gospel to the Scythians, Sogdians, and the Sacae in Sebastopolis, Ethiopia, in AD 80. Because he would not submit to the Roman idols, he was crucified by Aegeas, the governor of the Edesenes, and buried in Patrae, in Archaia.

James & John

- Sons of Zebedee
- Occupation: Fishermen
- Were known as the "sons of thunder" which implies they had a fiery personality.
- John-Wrote five books of the New Testament-John, 1,2,3 John, and Revelation.
- James was the first martyr who was killed under the rule of King Aprippa.
- John- According to tradition, John was banished to the Island of Patmos ([Revelation 1:9](#)) after he survived being thrown into boiling oil under Domitian. On that desolate Island, John received visions of the future and words from the Lord to seven churches. The compilation of these visions and letters formed the Book of Revelation. John Foxe also adds that he was released from Patmos and allowed to return to Ephesus in the year of A.D. 97.

Philip

- Name means "lover of horses."
- Was from Bethsaida and was formerly a disciple of John the Baptist.
- Had a deep understanding of the Old Testament and was looking for the coming Messiah
- There is some dispute over the events of Philip's later life and ministry. A second century Ephesian tradition believes he died at Hierapolis, roughly one hundred miles inland of Ephesus. Another tradition says Philip was crucified; and as a result, medieval art often depicts Philip on the cross.

Bartholomew/Nathaniel

- Was brought to Jesus by Philip
- A native of Cana of Galilee
- According to *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, he has been said to have preached throughout India and translated the Gospel of Matthew into their tongue. Later in his ministry, Bartholomew was beaten, crucified, and beheaded in Albinopolis, Armenia for the sake of his Master.

Thomas

- Name means "twin"
- Known by some as "Doubting Thomas"
- Could at times be pessimistic and at other times extremely loyal
- According to tradition, Thomas traveled to Persia and South India, where he founded the ancient *Mar Thoma Church*, in Travancore and Cochin, now called Kerala. He has been recognized for writing an apocryphal book that may have been written in the second century. It has also been said that Thomas was martyred near Madras at Mount St. Thomas.

Matthew

- Occupation: Tax collector
- Wrote the first Gospel-Matthew
- Name means "Gift of God"
- In his later ministries, Matthew preached to Ethiopia and all of Egypt and was later killed with a spear under the leadership of King Hircanus.

James-The Son of Alphaeus

- Son of Mary (not the mother of Jesus)
- Known as "James the Younger"
- He was probably younger in age compared to the others

Simon the Zealot

- He formerly was a zealous nationalist who wanted to get rid of all Roman influence
- According to the apocryphal book, The Passion of Simon and Jude, we are told their lives ended in martyrdom in Persia

Thaddaeus/Judas

- Name means "Large Hearted" or "Courageous"
- Little is known about Thaddaeus

Judas Iscariot

- Son of Simon Iscariot
- He was the treasurer for the Apostles
- He was a thief and often stole from the treasury funds (John 12:6)
- He was the one who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver
- He was under the influence of Satan (Luke 22:3; John 13:2)
- He felt guilty for his actions and consequently hung himself (Matthew 27:3-10; Acts 1:18-19).¹

Take Home Truth: Jesus still chooses ordinary people to do extraordinary things that change the world.

Action Steps:

- *For the ordinary person here today, if you want God to use you in extraordinary ways, its starts with a daily surrender. Are you fully surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus?*
- *For the person who has never decided to follow Jesus, today give you heart and soul to Jesus as your Lord and Savior.*

Make a decision this week? Please let us know on your Connection Card.

Preview for next Sunday: "The Blessed Life!" from Luke 6:17-23.

¹ Information and quotations about the 12 Apostle was collected from various sources, but mostly from www.blueletterbible.org.