

Luke 6:12-16 – Jesus appoints his apostles

God's kingdom is always going forward – even when it looks like it is going backwards! Christians discover that. Following Jesus brings trouble and problems; but God achieves his plans through it. At this time, Jesus was hated and rejected by the Pharisees and teachers of the law. They had begun to plot to destroy him (v11). But at this time, Jesus was planning for the kingdom to go forward. He was choosing his apostles. Some disciples were already following him all the time (e.g. Peter, Luke 5:10). Now he chose some who would have a special position.

1. How Jesus chose (v12)

There was a big decision to make; a new work to begin of training the apostles. So, Jesus prayed about it. He did not just act, but brought everything to his Father in prayer. Prayer is submitting to God. The Lord's prayer says, “may your will be done on earth”. Prayer means bringing our plans under God's rule so that he can change them as he sees best. It is not a magic or a spell where we try to change God's mind! Do we really *pray*, or are we just wanting an easy life? We should pray especially before big decisions or big changes. God has a plan for our lives; but we must make sure we are submitting to him. Prayer needs space and time. Jesus went up a mountain where he would be alone. He went at night when he would have time. If the Son of God did this, how much more should we? To not pray is to be an atheist. We may say that we believe in God, but if we do not pray then we are unbelievers in practice. Everyone will cry out to God in trouble; but is our daily life under his rule?

2. What Jesus chose them for (v13)

They were chosen to be “apostles”. This means, someone who is sent with authority. They were sent to preach about his kingdom. They were to teach others. Their teachings are now written for us, in the Bible. Are we learners? First, they had to be with him. They had to watch him, listen to him and learn from him. Later, they would be witnesses of his sufferings and resurrection. That gave them authority to witness to others about what he had done and its meaning. Therefore, there can be no apostles today; nobody qualifies (Acts 1:21). Those today who claim that name should be avoided, as false apostles, who are giving themselves titles that Jesus did not give them. Jesus chose twelve – the same number as the tribes of Israel. Despite their weak appearance, they were the beginning of a new people, chosen to inherit the nations (Luke 22:30). This new people is centred around Jesus. Are you one of them?

3. Who Jesus chose (v14-16)

Jesus chose surprising people. They were “nobodies”. Fishermen, tax collectors; rejected by Israel's leaders. This is God's way; he uses “weak” things to defeat and destroy the “strong” (1 Corinthians 1:26-29). His way to change the world is through the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross. He has used death to bring life – and all the glory then goes to him. He can change Eldoret using us – though we are nobodies! He chose different kinds of people; fishermen; a tax collector; bold Peter and fearful Thomas. He can use anyone who trusts and obeys him. He also chose Judas – the traitor. Through him, God's plans were fulfilled. We should know today that even if a man calls himself a bishop, it does not prove he is godly or going to heaven. Judas was a real apostle; but was lost. The real question is – do you truly repent and love Jesus?