

## Twelve Unlikely Men

Mark 3:13-19

### I. The Moment (13a)

- "And He went up on the mountain."
- Luke adds a little more detail...
  - Cf. Luke 6:12



Horns of Hattin from east



Arbel, Sea of Galilee from Horns of Hattin

### I. The Moment (13a)

- "And He went up on the mountain."
- Luke adds a little more detail...
  - Luke 6:12
    - Luke 5:16 – Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.
  - Luke 6:13

### II. The Master (13b)

- "...and [He] summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him."

## Christ's Interaction with the Apostles

- 1) Jesus had first met these men, shortly after His baptism.
  - Cf. John 1:35-40 – John, and probably James, Peter, Andrew, Philip, and Nathaniel (Bartholomew).
- 2) And then apparently several of them traveled some with Jesus some during his first year of ministry.
  - We know that they are with Him at the end of the first 8 months in Judea.
    - Cf. John 3:22; 4:1-4
  - Then, they travel with Him as he starts His ministry in Galilee.
  - There is no mention of His disciples again until after He is rejected in Nazareth and moves to Capernaum.
    - Luke 4:16, 30, 31
  - So, at some point during that time, these men returned to their jobs and homes.

## Christ's Interaction with the Apostles

- 3) But then after a few weeks, Jesus finds Peter, Andrew, James, and John, and asks these four men to accompany Him for part of His ministry around Galilee.
  - Mark 1:16-20; cf. Matt. 4:18-22
  - Around this time Matthew is converted and called.
  - After the Galilean Tour, at some point these men return yet again to their homes, families, and businesses.
- 4) Then there is a second call of the four men.
  - Luke 5:1-11.
- 5) Jesus formally appointed the 12.

## III. The Mission (14-15)

- "And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, 15 and to have authority to cast out the demons."
- Lit., "He made Twelve."
  - He created an entirely new group.
  - He constituted a group of 12.
  - Cf. John 15:16 – "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.
- "The Twelve" – an official designation.
  - 4:10; 6:7; 9:35; 10:32; 11:11; 14:10, 17, 20, 43
- Mark also calls them "the disciples."

## A. Why did He choose this time?

- 1) The increased workload caused by the crowds from many nations.
  - Cf. Mark 3:7-12
- 2) The opposition of the religious establishment.
- 3) The shortness of His time

## An Brief Timeline of Jesus' Ministry

- 26 AD
  - Spring – beginning of John's ministry
  - Summer – baptism of Jesus
  - Fall – temptation
- 27 AD
  - Winter – end of John's ministry/beginning of Christ's
- 28 AD
  - Fall – Appointment of the 12; Sermon on the Mount
- 30 AD
  - April 7 – Crucifixion
  - April 9 – Resurrection

## B. Why Did He choose that number?

- Symbolic.
  - Matt. 19:28 – Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
  - Luke 22:20 – that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- Related to the 12 tribes and the 12 patriarchs of Israel.
- His Kingdom was to be the New Israel with a New Covenant.

## C. What was His purpose for these men?

- 1) That they might be with Him.
  - A present purpose – be disciples
  - a) Education

## Christ's Teaching Ministry

- All his disciples
  - A public teaching ministry primarily; sometimes personal interaction
- The Seventy (Luke 10:1-17)
  - Group training for ministry—like a seminar
- The Twelve (Mark 3:13; Luke 6:13)
  - Public teaching; group training; small group teaching
  - Modeling, spending time together, accompanying Him as He ministered
- Peter, James, John
  - More time; personal interaction
  - Special privileges
    - Transfiguration--Matt. 17:1; Mk. 9:2; Luke 9:28
    - Healing of synagogue leader's daughter--Mk. 5:37—use as example; Lk. 8:51;
    - Gethsemane—Mk. 14:33.
    - Private discussions (includes Andrew as well)—Mk. 13:3.

## C. What was His purpose for these men?

- 1) That they might be with Him.
  - A present purpose – be disciples
  - a) Education
  - b) Eyewitnesses
    - Cf. Acts 1:15-26
      - 1:24 – they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen
    - The qualifications for an apostle: 1:21-22a.
    - The mission of an apostle: 1:22b.

## C. What was His purpose for these men?

- 1) That they might be with Him.
  - A present purpose – be disciples
  - a) Education
  - b) Eyewitnesses
- 2) That He might send them out...
  - A future purpose – apostles

## Apostle

- Greek: apostello = "send them out"
- Noun: apostolos
- "The apostles" (6:30)
- English apostle – not a translation; a transliteration
- The verb, apostello, means "to send out."
- The noun, apostolos, means "one sent out."
- An official representative
- 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.

## Shaliah

- In the OT this Hebrew word is translated by apostello (LXX).
- Used to describe Moses, Elijah, Elisha, and Ezekiel.
- ISBE: a shaliah was "an agent authorized by someone else to act for the sender in personal, legal, or financial matters."
- Sanhedrin had men who served in the role of the shaliah.
  - Spoke with the same authority and were to be treated with the same respect.
  - But their job was to deliver the message of the ones who sent them.
  - It's possible that when Paul left Jerusalem with letters for Damascus that He was going as the shaliah of the Sanhedrin.
- Some prominent rabbis also had their own shaliah.
- The Mishnah made this comment about the shaliah: "the one sent by the man is as the man himself."



## The Implications of these Twelve Unlikely Men

- Our faith rests on the testimony of eyewitnesses.
  - Cf. Acts 1:8; 2:32; 3:15; 5:32; 10:39, 41; 13:31
- We have a trustworthy, pre-authenticated list of NT authors.



## The NT Canon

- Matthew, 1 & 2 Peter, John, 1-3 John, Revelation.
- In addition, the eleven remaining disciples recognized two other men as having a status equal to their own:
  - James, the half brother of our Lord (cf. 1 Cor. 15:7; Gal. 1:19)
  - Paul (Gal. 2:1-10; 2 Pet. 3:16).
  - So we can add to our list of NT books written by an apostle: James, and Romans through Philemon (all the Pauline epistles).
- That leaves five NT books not directly written by an apostle:
  - Mark, Luke, Acts, Hebrews, and Jude.
  - Written under the auspices of an apostle.
    - Mark – association with Peter
    - Luke & Acts – because of Luke's close association w/ Paul
    - Jude – because of his association with James (Jude 1) and the fact that he was a believing, half-brother of Christ.
- That leaves only one NT book:
  - Hebrews