

**WHY TWELVE DISCIPLES?
MATTHEW 10:1-4 / 5-19-19 / PM**

I. WHY TWELVE DISCIPLES AND NOT MORE OR LESS?

- A. For one thing, certain numbers were symbolic for the Jews.
- B. Why was Israel comprised of 12 tribes?

II. WHY WERE THESE TWELVE MEN SELECTED AS DISCIPLES AND NOT SOMEONE ELSE?

- A. Some people consider Jesus' greatest miracle was his endurance of the blunders and desertion of these twelve men.
- B. Even though they lived and traveled with Jesus for three years they often didn't understand what he was talking about.
 - 1. Jesus perpetually had to give them private tutoring lessons—Mark 4:13.
 - 2. In Mark 8 Jesus warned the disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees and they thought he was talking about bread—Mark 8:17-18.
 - 3. On another occasion when the disciples couldn't drive out an evil spirit from a small boy Jesus said to them—Mark 9:19.
- C. Why didn't Jesus choose men with higher IQ's?
 - 1. For one thing, to demonstrate that God uses ordinary people.
 - 2. For another thing, regardless of who Jesus chose, the glory of his ministry was to go to God, not man.

III. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE IN A DISCIPLE AND AN APOSTLE?

- A. Apostle generally refers to someone sent on a mission. Disciple refers to a student of a particular teacher.
- B. In the gospels the word apostle always refers to the twelve disciples exclusively.
- C. Outside of the gospels Paul referred to him and Barnabas as apostles and also two others—Acts 14:14 & Romans 16:7.

IV. WHAT WERE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING ONE OF THE TWELVE DISCIPLES?

- A. Peter lists two requirements when looking for someone to replace Judas after he killed himself—Acts 1:21-26.
- B. Notice that at least two other men met these requirements.

V. WHAT ARE SOME INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT THE TWELVE DISCIPLES?

- A. They were a diverse group of men.
 - 1. Four were professional fishermen—Peter, Andrew, James and John.
 - 2. One was a political activist, Simon the Zealot.
 - 3. One was a hated tax collector, Matthew.
 - 4. There were three sets of brothers.

Peter and Andrew
John and James
James the son of Alphaeus and Judas also called Labbaeus and Thaddaeus.
 - 5. One disciple was a twin.
 - 6. Several of these twelve lived in or near Capernaum, the headquarters of Jesus' ministry—James, John, Peter, Andrew, Matthew and Philip.
- B. There are four lists of the twelve disciples in the N.T.

Matthew 10:1-4

Mark 3:13-18

Luke 6:12-16

Acts 1:12-13 without Judas Iscariot.