

## DELEGATED DOZEN

If you could have twelve of anything, what would you choose? Donuts? Eggs? Grandchildren? Ammo? The list goes on. In Luke 6:12-16, Jesus chose twelve apostles. Let's look at who they are and why they were called, and at your calling as a disciple of Jesus.

**1- DEPENDENCE ON GOD** - Verse 12 says "He went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God." Why did the Son of God need to pray? He said, "I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught Me. And He who sent Me is with Me, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him" (John 8:28). Isaiah 50:4 says "morning by morning God awakens My ear to hear from Him." Jesus lived in constant communication with God.

Jesus did not say "apart from Me you can do something" but "apart from Me you can do nothing" of abiding value for His kingdom (John 15:5,16). "What arrogance to understand Jesus' necessity for prayer but reject it for ourselves," says RK Hughes, "or to engage not in dependent prayer, but routine or obligatory prayer, when true power and spirituality is in dependence upon God."

**2- APPOINTED APOSTLES** - Verse 13 says, "when day came, He called His disciples and chose from them twelve, whom He named apostles." That's why Jesus prayed all night. He had important decisions to make, as He delegated twelve of His disciples as "sent-out-ones."

The Lord Jesus Christ, with His God-given authority and ability, sovereignly elects those who will represent Him, to speak His words and do His works. These would be His carefully trained and trusted apostles, messengers, emissaries, delegated for His divine purposes.

**3- DELEGATED DOZEN** - Who did He choose and why? Luke 6:14-16 lists Simon, whom He named Peter, and Andrew his brother. And James and John, Philip, Bartholomew (Nathananel), Matthew (Levi), Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James (Jude or Thaddaeus). And Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

The list of apostles is also in Matthew 10:1-4, Mark 3:16-19, Acts 1:13. All of these men had already responded to Jesus' call to be disciples. They were followers, learners, who had reached a point in their training to be sent out on their own with Jesus' message.

**4- CHOSEN BY GOD** - A president selects emissaries based on ability. But Jesus' list features "uneducated men" (Acts 4:13) who had not received the advanced formal religious training of the Jews. Four were fishermen. One was a tax collector. Most were Galileans. Not one was great or rich or noble or highly connected. No Pharisees or scribes or priests or rulers or elders.

"This was God's sovereign election," notes Hughes, "as they were divinely chosen. And in the tumultuous times to come they would comfort themselves that Jesus, not they, were responsible for this choice." In Acts 1:21-26, Matthias was chosen as an apostle to replace Judas Iscariot.

**5- APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY** - An apostle had to be one who sat under Jesus' teaching and saw the risen Christ (Acts 1:22), which includes the conversion and calling of the Apostle Paul (Acts 9, Galatians 1-2, 1Corinthians 15:8-10). Just as Jesus sent out apostles, so God sent His Son.

"The transfer of authority from Father to Son is transferred to His apostles, in an absolutely unique role in the church, set apart and commissioned by Christ, carrying His authority, which no minister has today," notes RC Sproul. "No major leader in the history of the church has let himself be called 'apostle' and neither should anyone else today," agrees WA Grudem.

**6- BEING SENT BY GOD** - Hebrews 3:1 refers to Christ as "the apostle and high priest of our confession." An apostle is "one who is sent out" with authority as a messenger or emissary.

Apostleship speaks of authority and purpose, and Jesus Christ speaks and acts with the authority of God Himself. He is the ultimate "apostle of God." Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord has anointed Me and sent Me" (Luke 4:18) and "Whoever receives Me receives the One who sent Me" (Luke 9:48). "The Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world" (1John 4:14).

Though no one today can have the same authority as the original apostles of Christ, every Christian is called to be an ambassador. 2Corinthians 5:14-6:2 says anyone in Christ is a new creation of God, entrusted with the message of reconciliation, as God makes His appeal through us as His ambassadors: "behold, now is the day of salvation!" Tell someone today! ☐