

Boanerges, which is, Sons of thunder: and Andrew" (16-18a).
1. Compare the lists given in Matt. 10:2-4; Luke 6:14-16; Acts 1:13.

2. Peter, impetuous and active, is perhaps the best known of the original twelve, and always listed first when the apostles are named.

3. But the idea that he was given supremacy over the others is not biblical.

B. The next four: "And Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas" (18b).

1. Philip was "the earnest inquirer" (John 1:43-45; 6:5; 12:20,21; 14:8).

2. Nathanael or Bartholomew was the Israelite without any guile (John 1:47).

3. Thomas was the melancholy doubter (John 11:26; 20:24-29).

4. The different order of the names in the different lists is not any more than to be expected from different writers of such information.

C. The last four: "And James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him" (18c,19).

1. James the son of Alphaeus may have been "James the Less" (Matt. 27:56; Mark 15:40; 16:1; Luke 24:10).

2. Thaddaeus (Mark 3:18; Matt. 10:3) is also called Lebbaeus ("Lebbaeus, whose surname is Thaddaeus," KJV) and "Judas the son of James" (Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13).

"Judas (not Iscariot)" (John 14:22).

3. "Simon who was called the Zealot" (Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13) was "Simon the Canaanite" (Matt. 10:4; Mark 3:18).

D. "Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him" is named last in all the lists of the twelve except in Acts 1:13, where he is omitted.

IV. THEIR CREDENTIALS: "THE SIGNS OF AN APOSTLE" (2 Cor. 12:2).

A. Called by the Lord, "not from men, neither through men" (Gal. 1:1; Luke 6:13).

B. Witness of the resurrection of Christ (Acts 1:21,22; 1 Cor. 15:5-8).

C. Inspired and infallible as teachers (Luke 24:47-49; Acts 1:8; Gal. 1:12; John 14:26; 16:13-16; Eph. 3:5).

D. Supernatural power and power to confer spiritual gifts upon others.

1. Acts 2:43; 8:14-21; Rom. 1:11; 2 Tim. 1:6; Heb. 2:4.

2. This included the gift of tongues (Acts 2:4; 1 Cor. 14:18).

STUDIES IN MARK--LESSON SIX

The Twelve Chosen and Appointed
Mark 3:7-19; Matt. 10:1-4; Luke 6:12-18

INTRODUCTION -

I. The very great importance of the apostles and their work needs to be emphasized.

A. There is much ignorance about them and their work.

B. Jesus prayed all night before choosing the twelve (Luke 6:12).

II. THE WORD "APOSTLE" MEANS "ONE SENT AWAY."

A. By implication, it means one sent on a mission.

B. Apostolos is from apo, "from," and stello, "to send" (Mark 3:14).

III. THE CHARACTER OF JESUS AND THE NATURE OF HIS KINGDOM IS PARTLY REVEALED BY THE CHOOSING AND THE TRAINING OF THE TWELVE TO BE "FISHERS OF MEN."

A. The original twelve were not from among Jewish leaders or rabbis; nor were they from the shift-less irresponsible element of society.

B. They were from the great common class (Mark 12:37).

C. They were literate, responsible, humble, ordinary men (Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11,27; Matt. 9:9;

1 Corinthians 1:26-29).

DISCUSSION -

I. JESUS HEALS MANY BESIDE THE SEA OF GALILEE (Mark 3:7-12).

A. To the sea: "And Jesus with his disciples withdrew to the sea: and a great multitude from Galilee followed; and from Judea" (7).

1. After healing the man with the withered hand, the Pharisees and Herodians began plotting the DEATH of Jesus (3:6).

2. This withdrawal to the sea was evidently for self-preservation, the first of several such moves by the Lord, to advance his kingdom more effectively, until time for him to be delivered up.

B. A great multitude: "And from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, hearing what great things he did, came unto him" (8).

1. The vast area from whence they came indicates Jesus' growing fame

2. Those following Jesus soon exceeded the number following John (John 4:1).
- C. The pressing crowd: "And he spake to his disciples that a little boat should wait on him because of the crowd, lest they should throng him" (9).
1. The growing multitude following him so pressed upon him as to make his work of teaching extremely difficult if not impossible.
 2. The simple use of a boat "put a narrow strip of water between him and them, thus removing all occasion for their crowding one another, and securing that quietness which is necessary for thoughtful attention"—McGarvey, via A.L. Commentary, 2-20-38
- D. Why they pressed: "For he had healed many; insomuch that as many as had plagues pressed upon him that they might touch him" (10).

1. They literally "fell upon him" in their eager efforts to touch him and be healed.
 2. Luke 6:19: "And all the multitude sought to touch him; for power came forth from him, and healed them all."
- E. Demon testimony unwanted: "And the unclean spirits, whensoever they beheld him, fell down before him, and cried saying, Thou art the Son of God. And he charged them much that they should not make him known" (11,12).
1. Evil spirits and diseases are to be distinguished.
 2. Evil spirits spoke; diseases could not.
 3. We do not understand how demons spoke, using man's lips and body; but neither do we understand how one's own spirit can do so.
 4. Jesus had nothing in common with demons or Satan, and did not need or desire their testimony. Faith in him must rest upon better evidence and witnesses.

II. THE TWELVE CHOSEN (Mark 3:13-15).

- A. Into the mountain: "And he goeth up into the mountain, and calleth unto him whom he himself would; and they went unto him" (13).
1. The mountain on which this momentous event occurred is not identified.
 2. Luke reveals the praying which continued all night before their selection (6:12).
 3. Jesus often spent time in prayer before great and important events (Matt. 26:36-45).

B. Why chosen: "And he appointed twelve, that they might be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach" (14).

1. No reason is given for choosing the number of men which he did: twelve.
2. Their training: "That they might be with him."
3. Three years of careful preparation was involved in preparing them to receive their great commission and go forth on their marvelous assignment. Even then they were not to rely upon themselves (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-13).
3. Their mission and function: "And might send them forth to preach."
 - a. As witnesses (Luke 24:48; John 15:27; Acts 1:8; 2:32; 22:14,15; 26:16).
 - b. As ministers of the New Testament (2 Cor. 3:6; 4:1,6).
 - c. As earthen vessels (2 Cor. 4:7). Trustees of the glorious gospel: The containers in which the gospel was deposited that they might "deliver" it "once for all" to the saints. Consider why God did not select angels to preach the gospel.
- C. Their authority: "And to have authority to cast out demons" (15).
 1. This represented only part of the authority given the apostles.
 2. They were to be judges (Matt. 19:28).
 3. They were to become the Lord's ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:18-21). To hear the apostles is to hear Jesus (Luke 10:16; John 13:20; Matt. 10:40; 1 Thes. 2:13).
 4. The same authority and training was given to all (Matt. 16:19; 18:18-20; John 20:21-23). "Keys" represent transfer of authority in the kingdom to them.
 5. The "primacy of Peter" is a dogma originated by man, not God.
 - a. No such idea is found in the scriptures (Acts 11:1-18; 15; Gal. 2:11-14; 2 Cor. 11:5; 12:11).
 - b. Neither the pope, the archbishop of Canterbury, nor any other living man can ever possess the qualifications of an apostle of Jesus Christ.
 6. There is no need or place for successors (2 Tim. 3:16,17; Gal. 1:8,9). They still reign perpetually over the church, under Christ, through the 27 books of the N.T, which are their only successors on earth.

III. THEIR NAMES GIVEN (3:16-19).

- A. The first four: "And Simon be surnamed Peter; and James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and them he surnamed"