

Luke 6:12-16 Twelve Apostles

Jesus restored the people of God using frail men invested with His authority.

- 1) Jesus chose twelve Apostles to symbolize the restoration of the people of God (v. 13).**
 - a) 12 Tribes of Israel parallel to 12 Apostles—resurrection & reunification (Ezekiel 37)
 - b) Feeding of 5000 with 12 baskets left over (broken pieces)
 - c) God's promises to Israel fulfilled . . . and then some . . .
- 2) Jesus chose the Apostles according to Divine wisdom (v. 12).**
 - a) "He went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God"—not just a passing note, but connected to this event of choosing Apostles
 - b) The Apostles were chosen by the Father out of the world and then given to the Son (John 17:6ff)
 - c) The Apostles were part of the eternal covenant of redemption between the Father and the Son.
- 3) Jesus chose the Apostles from among His disciples (v. 13).**
 - a) The Apostles were already learning from Jesus and devoting themselves to His person and teaching.
 - b) The Apostles were eyewitnesses of Christ from the days of John the Baptist's ministry until the Ascension of Christ (Acts 1:21-22).
- 4) Jesus chose frail men whom He invested with His authority (vv. 13-16).**
 - a) Simon and Andrew, James and John were fishermen; Matthew was a tax collector; Simon the Zealot may have been part of a violent revolutionary movement—they may have had many "strengths," but there is no indication that they were what we would call "leadership material" or religious geniuses.
 - b) "Simon, whom He named Peter" (v. 14)—Jesus redefined them
 - i) Matthew 16:18 "on this rock"
 - ii) Acts 4:13 "They recognized that they had been with Jesus."
 - c) "whom He named Apostles" (v. 13)—a servant who was invested with his master's name and authority to represent his master (Matthew 10:40; 2 Corinthians 5:20)
 - d) The New Testament documents are apostolic, which means they are the Word of Christ, carrying His authority.
- 5) Jesus knowingly chose His betrayer so that the cornerstone of the restored people would be Jesus Christ, crucified and risen (v. 16).**
 - a) "Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor"—chosen just as much according to divine wisdom as the others (Note v. 11!)
 - b) Luke 22:21-22 "But behold, the hand of him who betrays Me is with Me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed."
 - c) Acts 1:16-17 "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. . . . For it is written in the Book of Psalms, 'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it;' and, ' Let another take his office.'" (Psalms 69:25; 109:8)
 - d) John 13:18 "I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.'" (Psalm 41:9)
 - e) Judas was part of God's redemptive purpose from eternity. This does not mitigate his culpability, but highlights the sovereignty of God to use the evil that men do for His glorious, good purposes.
 - f) The betrayal of Jesus, which led to His crucifixion, and then to His resurrection from the dead, gave the Apostles the crux of the good news that they would have to proclaim to a world of sinners.
- 6) Why do we call the Church "Apostolic"?**
 - a) It is founded on the Apostle's teaching and preaching and writings (Ephesians 2:20), with Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone.
 - b) Any group that departs from the Apostolic message is not a Church.
 - c) The Apostolic message contains both indicatives (what God has done for us in Christ) and imperatives (how we are to walk worthy of the gospel).
 - d) Are you living under the authority of Jesus Christ, trusting and obeying the Apostolic Word?

