

Mark 3:13-19 — "Jesus' Choosing of the Twelve"

"A dozen men under the power of the Holy Spirit are a more potent force than the teeming masses whose initial enthusiasm for Jesus was apparently provoked by little more than sheer curiosity." (John MacArthur)

"The only thing that walks back from the tomb with the mourners and refuses to be buried is the character of a man. What a man is survives him. It can never be buried." (J.R. Miller)

Ministers of the Gospel [By application: all men of God] must be...

- They must BE IMITATORS OF CHRIST.
- They must BE LOVERS OF SOULS.
- They must BE ALERT AGAINST SATAN.
- They must BE VIGILANT IN PRAYER

Background to Mark 3.13-19

- And the main pivot/turning point of Mark's gospel is 3:20-30 = official rejection. Why? Mark is hurrying to get to his main purpose for writing, **to show that Jesus is the Suffering Servant who came to give his life a ransom for many.**
- 2 stories leading up to the main pivot/transitional passage:
 - 1) the exceeding popularity of Christ (Mark 3:7-12)
 - 2) **the commissioned Apostles of Christ (Mark 3:13-19)**

THESIS — Let's ascend the "Holy Mountain" with Jesus to learn about the Choosing of the 12 Apostles. I'll teach this in 3 applicational statements for you.

I. VIGILANTLY PRAY! The intercession for the 12 (13; Lk 6.12)

A. THEME: *travail in prayer / vigilantly pray*

B. Jesus prayed: (Luke 6.12)

- ❖ The time - after much conflict/controversy
- ❖ the place - isolated on a mountain (alone)
- ❖ The purpose - to pray: to beseech his Father
- ❖ The duration - all night in prayer
- ❖ The communion - to God
- ❖ The preparation - selecting the 12; the sermon.

II. EMBRACE WEAKNESS! The identification of the 12 (16-19)

A. THEME: *Triumph in weakness; embrace weakness*

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Simple observations about the text:

- ✓ they are all men; no women.
- ✓ there are 12 (parallel to 12 tribes of Israel of Old Covenant; *not replacing Israel, but a new era in God's redemptive plan*)
- ✓ they have a laser-focused mission
- ✓ they all had to be with Christ & be sent by Christ
- ✓ they all were untrained, ordinary, common men. (least likely!)
- ✓ in their weakness, they have a praying Intercessor (Jesus!)

1. SIMON PETER -

2. JAMES - SON OF ZEBEDEE -

3. JOHN - SON OF ZEBEDEE -

4. ANDREW -

5. PHILIP -

6. BARTHOLOMEW -

7. MATTHEW -

8. THOMAS -

9. JAMES - SON OF ALPHEUS -

10. THADDAEUS -

11. SIMON THE ZEALOT -

12. JUDAS ISCARIOT -

1. God gives success!
2. God uses the weak!
3. God strengthens with His power!
4. God emboldens even to the point of a martyr's death!

JESUS I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

1. Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heaven are still my own.

2. Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me,
Show Thy face and all is bright.

3. Man may trouble and distress me,
Twill but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me;
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me
While Thy love is left to me;
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

4. Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,
With Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father,
I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
All must work for good to me.

5. Soul, then know thy full salvation
Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station,
Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
Think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee,
Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

6. Haste thee on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee,
God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

THE 12 APOSTLES SONG

Tune: Jesus loves me this I know

Jesus called them one by one,
Peter, Andrew, James and John,
Next, came Philip, Thomas too,
Matthew and Bartholomew.

*Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
He called them one by one.*

James the one they called the less,
Simon, also Thaddeus,
Twelfth apostle Judas made,
Jesus was by him betrayed.

Matthias then took Judas' place,
To preach to men of every race,
Paul three preaching trips did make,
And went to Rome for Jesus' sake.