

(Luke 6:12~16)

Here we have the written account of the choosing of the twelve...an elite group of men who would make up the innermost circle... The fascinating part of this is when you consider WHO he chose, fishermen, tax collectors, *nobodies*. None of them were, what you might say, “*qualified*” for the position. It is obvious that Jesus never chose these 12 men, on the basis of what they had to offer to the ministry.

Jesus saw something in each one of these men that no one else could see. Jesus had the incredible ability to see what people could become! At the time he picked these men, there was absolutely nothing that really pointed to greatness. But great they would be, but it would come about through the work he would do in their lives...(Illustration: Clay)

That statement in verse one, “...*in those days*...” stuck out to me...

<sup>12</sup>And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

...*in “those days...”* What days?

When you couple that statement with the previous statement in verse 11, it seems to suggest that following his healing the man with the withered hand, that these Scribes and Pharisees really made it hard on him. I’m convinced that Jesus became under constant attack and persecution from these men...

<sup>11</sup>And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.

“...filled with *madness*...” these guys were “*enraged!*” It is to say it “*drove them crazy...they were going “out of their mind...”*” You know how you get when you get so angry, *you just loose it?* That’s what happened to these men...

In Matthew’s account, he writes...

<sup>14</sup>Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

It’s obvious by what is written, that these men had it out for him, and were bound and determined to get rid of him. They had already declared him “GUILTY!” Now all they had to do was to find a crime to charge him with. There’s no doubt in my mind that a partial reason we have such accounts of these encounters with the Pharisees, is to show that Jesus was guilty of nothing. We see over and over in the gospels where they tried time and time again to get him on something, but never could. It’s passages like this that serve as the defense, that they killed an innocent man! They murdered the Messiah...

<sup>11</sup>And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.

It appears to me, “*that this marks the beginning of some very tough times for Jesus...*” From is point on, the persecution and suffering Jesus encounter grew more and more intense. From here on out, for the remainder of his time here on earth, their opposition to him would grow more and more intense...

(Vs 12~13) <sup>12</sup>And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God... <sup>13</sup>And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

Here we read of “*The Choosing of the Twelve.*” It’s apparent, by what is written, that there was a substantial number following him by this time, for Luke says that when he called his disciples unto himself, that he choose twelve out of them.

After spending all night in prayer, Jesus hand selects 12 men who will become his closet disciples, the “*inner circle.*” Metaphorically speaking, these would be the “*Foundation*” of the church.

**(Ep. 2)** <sup>20</sup> *And are built upon **the foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

There he seems to be referring to the church in “*this world...*” And it seems to suggest that the “WORDS” of the apostles and the prophets, serve as a foundation, to support the truth that Jesus is the Messiah. In Revelations, speaking of the New Jerusalem...

**(Rev 21)** <sup>14</sup> *And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them **the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.***

It would be an understatement to say these twelve would serve a critical role in the kingdom of God...

Have you ever wondered why he chose 12?

I’m convinced that this is in keeping with **the imagery** in the O.T, in that of Moses and the 12 tribes of Israel. Moses was a “*Type of Christ*”... Deuteronomy 8 says, <sup>15</sup> *The LORD thy God **will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;***

Jesus would be liken unto Moses in that he would be a deliverer, and miracles and signs and wonders will follow him as well... So we see, that MOSES was a “*Picture of Jesus Christ,*” and we also see, the “12 TRIBES” was a “*picture of the 12 disciples.*” The twelve tribes resulting from the twelve children of Jacob, or Israel (*as his name was changed to.*)

The fascinating part of his choosing the 12 men who will make up this elite group, is when you consider WHO he chose. None of them were, what you might say, “*qualified*” for the position. That is something that would come about through the work he would do in their lives...**(Illustration: Clay)**

The thing that fascinates me most, was his choosing *Judas Iscariot*... Notice how Luke speaks of Judas, <sup>16b</sup> *...And **Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.*** Judas will forever be remembered as the traitor...

The most fascinating part of his selection of Judas was that HE KNEW that Judas would betray him. He knew what kind of man he was. Judas was not a “*good Christian gone bad,*” Jesus wasn’t shocked when he learnt of his betrayal. But rather, Jesus chose this man, for the express purpose of knowing that he would betray him into the hands of the Romans. Jesus knew, that when he called Judas’ name that day, that he had just willingly chosen the man who would literally stab him in the back, setting up the series of events that would bring about his crucifixion.

**(John 17) Jesus affirms his knowledge of Judas, and the fact that it was a fulfillment of scripture...**

<sup>12</sup> *While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gave me I have kept, and none of them is lost, **but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.***

Jesus affirms the events that took place in conjunction with Judas, was all in accordance with scripture.

**(Matthew 26)** Jesus reveals to the disciples, of the deceiver... <sup>20</sup> *Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. <sup>21</sup>And as they did eat, he said, **Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.** <sup>22</sup>And they were exceeding sorrowful, & began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, **is it I?***

That has always intrigued me...how instead of looking around, and trying to reason “*who it was,*” each one began to ask...“*is it me?*” This reveals that Christ had done a good work in them, rather than “*Look around*” and try and judge who it was, they “*looked within,*” wanting to ensure it wasn’t them...checking to make sure they wasn’t the problem...

<sup>23</sup> *And he answered and said, **He that dips his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.***

**A fulfillment of (Psalms 41)** <sup>9</sup> *Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.*

Jesus knew all along, that his close, intimate friend would betray him...But notice what he says...

**(Vs 24)** *<sup>24</sup>The Son of man goes as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.*

But Jesus then put the betrayal in its divine perspective by assuring the disciples that the heinous act would work to the fulfillment of God's sovereign plan. **The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him.** Jesus did not fall into Judas's trap but rather Judas, by his wicked rejection of Christ, became an instrument of God's plan. God would use even that vile scheme to work the righteousness of **the Son of Man.**

Judas's malicious decision to reject and betray Christ was used by God in fulfilling Christ's gracious mission of redemption.

*An unholy man in the hands of a holy God was used to accomplish a holy purpose.*

**(Vs 24)** *<sup>24</sup>The Son of man goes as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.*

The Lord made clear that Judas's destiny was damnation. Jesus declares that Judas's future was so terrifying that he would have been infinitely better off **if he had not been born.**

He is the most graphic and tragic example of the people about whom the writer of Hebrews says that, <sup>26</sup>*For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins,* <sup>27</sup>*But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.* <sup>28</sup>*He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:* <sup>29</sup>*Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?* <sup>30</sup>*For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongs unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.* <sup>31</sup>***It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.***" (Heb. 10:26-27, 29).

*Judas...an unholy man in the hands of a holy God was used to accomplish a holy purpose.*