

“JESUS APPOINTED TWELVE” (1)
Mark 3:13-19

Introduction:

1. Jesus prayed all night before choosing His apostles (Luke 6:12).
2. He had many disciples, but only 12 apostles (1 Cor. 15:6; Luke 6:13).
 - a. A disciple is a learner, a student.
 - b. An apostle is one sent on a mission, a missionary.
 - c. All apostles were disciples, but only 12 disciples were chosen to be apostles.
3. To be an apostle, one must have seen the resurrected Lord (Acts 1:21,22; 2:32; 22:14,15).
4. The office of apostleship was not a continuing office (Eph. 4:11).
 - a. Judas was replaced by Matthias, but no replacement was sought for James (Acts 1:15-26; 12:1,2).
 - b. Paul was “one born out of due time” (1 Corinthians 15:8).
5. The apostles were ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20).

“An ambassador is one entrusted with a message from one sovereign to another. The apostles were ambassadors sent by God to the world. As ambassadors to men, they, in the state of Jesus, besought men to accept God’s terms of reconciliation” (Lipscomb & Shepherd; GA Com. on the N.T. Epistles, Vol. 3).

 - a. They were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4,5; 2:1-21).
 - b. They were given the privilege of “binding and loosing” (Matthew 16:19; 18:18).
6. Except for Jesus, the apostles were the most influential men in the history of the world.

Discussion:

I. SIMON PETER IS THE BEST KNOWN OF THE APOSTLES.

A. He heads the four lists of the Twelve (Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16; Acts 1:12,13).

- 1. After Jesus, Simon Peter is mentioned more than anyone else in the four Gospels.**
- 2. He may have been the oldest of the apostles.**
- 3. He was a born leader!**

B. Simon Peter was among the first chosen of the disciples.

- 1. His brother, Andrew, brought him to Jesus (John 1:40-42; Mark 1:16-18).**
- 2. His father was Jona, a form of John (Matthew 16:17).**
- 3. They were from Bethsaida, but lived in Capernaum where he had a house (John 1:44; Mark 1:21,29).**
- 4. Peter was a married man (Mark 1:30,31; 1 Cor. 9:5).**
- 5. He must have had children for he was an elder (1 Peter 5:1; 1 Timothy 3:4).**

C. Simon was his given name, but Jesus gave him the name Peter (John 1:42; Matthew 16:18).

- 1. Peter, from the Greek petros, means a small stone.**
- 2. The Aramiac is Kephas, not Cephas, as usually said.**

D. Peter was a diamond in the rough, a work in progress.

- 1. Batsell Barrett Baxter preached a sermon on Peter called "The Power to Become."**
- 2. Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, and was given the keys of the kingdom, which he used on Pentecost and at the household of Cornelius (Matthew 16:16-19).**

3. He denied he would ever deny the Lord, but denied Him three times (Matt. 26:31-35; Luke 22:54-62).
4. He alone tried to defend the Lord (John 18:10,11).
5. Peter boldly preached Christ on Pentecost (Acts 2).
6. He refused to obey the Council, saying: “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).
7. Peter compromised with the Judaizers at Antioch and was rebuked by Paul (Galatians 2:11-16).

E. Peter died as a martyr according to early church history.

1. Jesus “signified what manner of death he would die” (John 21:18).
2. Lactantius, an early Christian writer, said:

**“Execrable and noxious tyrant as he was, Nero determined to destroy the heavenly church and to abolish righteousness; and becoming the persecutor of God’s servants, crucified Peter and slew Paul.”
(Lockyer, “All the Apostles of the Bible,” page 149).**

II. JAMES, THE BROTHER OF JOHN, WAS A “SON OF THUNDER.”

A. The father of James and John was Zebedee and their mother was Salome (Mark 3:17; 15:40,41; Matt. 27:55,56).

1. James was a fisherman who lived in Capernaum.
2. He, Zebedee, and John, were partners with Peter and Andrew (Luke 5:10).
3. James’ name is always listed before John’s indicating he was the older brother.
4. Often James is listed after Peter indicating he was the second oldest among the twelve apostles.

B. We must not confuse James with others of the same name.

1. James, son of Alphaeus, was another apostle.

2. Jesus had a half-brother named James (Matt. 13:55; Acts 15:13; Galatians 1:19; James 1:1).

C. James was one of “the inner circle” of Jesus’ friends.

1. Peter, James and John were allowed to witness the healing of Jairus’ daughter (Mark 5:37-43).
2. The three were witnesses of the Transfiguration and saw Moses and Elijah (Mark 9:2-10; 2 Peter 1:16-18).
3. The three also went further with our Lord into the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32,33).
4. Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the Law: “By the mouth of two or three witnesses, the matter shall be established” (Deuteronomy 19:15; 1 Timothy 5:19).

D. James and John were named “sons of thunder” by Jesus (Mark 3:17, Luke 9:51-56).

1. A village in Samaria refused hospitality to Jesus when they saw He was on His way to Jerusalem.
2. James and John wanted to call down fire from Heaven on them as Elijah had done (2 Kings 1).
3. The nickname indicated they were men of a quick temperament who believed in taking vengeance.

E. The two were also ambitious for earthly advancement (Matthew 20:20-28).

F. James was the first apostle to die for his faith (Acts 12:1,2).

Conclusion:

1. It is of note that Jesus did not choose His apostles from the priesthood, or from the scribes and Pharisees.
2. He chose four fishermen, a tax collector, a revolutionary, etc.
3. He saw the potential in men; then trained and molded them.
4. Are you a disciple of Jesus? Have you been baptized into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19,20)?

