

Appointing of the 12 Apostles

7 Jesus went out to the lake with his disciples, and a large crowd followed him. They came from all over Galilee, Judea, 8 Jerusalem, Idumea, from east of the Jordan River, and even from as far north as Tyre and Sidon. The news about his miracles had spread far and wide, and vast numbers of people came to see him.

9 Jesus instructed his disciples to have a boat ready so the crowd would not crush him. 10 He had healed many people that day, so all the sick people eagerly pushed forward to touch him. 11 And whenever those possessed by evil spirits caught sight of him, the spirits would throw them to the ground in front of him shrieking, "You are the Son of God!" 12 But Jesus sternly commanded the spirits not to reveal who he was.

13 Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called out the ones he wanted to go with him. And they came to him. 14 Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach, 15 giving them authority to cast out demons. 16 Here are their names:

Simon (whom he named Peter), 17 James and John (the sons of Zebedee, but Jesus nicknamed them "Sons of Thunder"), 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon (the zealot), 19 Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

Mark 3:7-19 (NLT)

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- Who would you go out of your way to see and why (for v.7-12)?
 - What is the largest crowd you've ever been apart of (for v.7-12)?
 - What was your first business venture (ex. lemonade stand), and who were your partners (for v. 13-19)?
- O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

V7-12

- O: How far were people coming to see and hear Jesus (v.7-8)? Why did He attract such large crowds (v.8,10)?
While the religious leaders are plotting to kill Jesus, how are the common people responding to Jesus?
- I: What commitment do you think these crowds had to Jesus?
- I: Why doesn't Jesus want the "evil spirits" revealing what His true identity is?
- A: (v.10) What kind of healing do you seek? Have the group pray boldly for each member that desires prayer/healing.

V13-19

- O: Read Luke 6:12-13, what did Jesus do prior to appointing the 12 apostles? What can we learn/apply from this parallel passage?
- O: What were these 12 apostles to do; what is the purpose in Jesus calling them (v.14-15)?
How do/can we model this calling today? Of the three "general things" the apostles are to do, what comes first & why?
- I: How might the events of v.7-12, and especially v.6, bring Jesus to the place of appointing the 12?
- I: Jesus chose the 12 in the midst of great opposition and controversy (v.6). What sort of declaration was Jesus making to His enemies by choosing and commissioning the 12 apostles?
- I: Every Jew knew that there were 12 tribes in Israel. What would Jesus be saying then about His ministry and the fact that He chose 12 men and gave them "authority?"
- I: Why did Jesus pick such ordinary guys instead of folks with clout or impressive backgrounds?
- A: What does "accompanying Jesus" mean for you/look like? What does being "sent out" with a mission and a purpose mean for you/look like?
- A: Matthew was a tax collector, Simon the Zealot was part of a movement that tried to rebel against the government. How has Christ changed your attitudes toward people, or groups of people? What changes do you still need to be made?

Recommended Follow-up:

- Pray: Pray as lead by the spirit (for healing v.10, for renewed calling v.14-15, community v.16-19, etc.)
- Respond: Next week won't have a sermon (7/4/2010) as we will have a pancake breakfast. On your own, study Mark 4:1-20.

* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid "go through this guide word-for-word." There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. These guides rely heavily on a few different study guides; including "LifeChange Series" (ISBN 0891099107), N.T. Wright's guide (ISBN 9780830821822), James Hoover's guide (ISBN 9780830830046), and the Serendipity NT for Groups by the Young Life ministry (ISBN is N/A)