

Luke 6:12-16 How Jesus Deals with Opposition

Introduction: Luke has demonstrated that the Jewish leaders are spiritually unfit for serving in God's program revealed through Jesus. Those identified in the passage before us today are replacement leaders, in a manner of speaking.

This is phase 4 of the call to these men.

- 1) Phase 1—**Invitation**—John 1:35-51 “*Come and see*”
- 2) Phase 2—**Command**—Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20 “*Follow me, and I will make you^{pl} become fishers of men*”
- 3) Phase 3—**Promise**—Luke 5:1-11 “*Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.*”
- 4) Phase 4—**Authorization**—here and Mark 3:13-19 *choosing the twelve*
- 5) Phase 5—**Ministry**—Matthew 9:35-11:1; Mark 6:6-13; Luke 9:1-6 *gave them power and authority, sent them to preach and to heal*

What is the setting?—6:12-13 ¹² *Now it happened in those days that ...*

- 1) Jesus gets alone to pray—*He went out to the mountain to pray,*
 - a) *and He spent all night in prayer to God (the Father).*
 - b) This is the only mention of all night prayer in the NT.
 - c) The opposition is gradually increasing. His enemies are watching Him like hawks. He gets alone before the Father in focused prayer.
- 2) Jesus is deliberate—¹³ *And when day came, He summoned His disciples,*
 - a) *and having chosen [ἐκλέγομαι] twelve from them, whom He also named apostles (authorized representatives):*
 - i) All the apostles (sent ones) were disciples (learners), but only some of the disciples were chosen to be apostles.
 - b) He gathers His followers around Him in the midst of increasing opposition.

Who are these men?—6:14-16

- They are always listed in 3 groups of four (Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Acts 1:13), even though the order changes slightly. The first man in each group is always the same.
- 1) Group 1 (2 pair of brothers)—6:14
 - a) Sons of John, from Bethsaida (cf. John 1:44), but Peter lives in Capernaum (Mark 1:29)
 - i) **Simon**, whom He also named Peter/Cephas
(1) Always listed as the first apostle
 - ii) *Andrew his brother*, (also living in Capernaum, cf. Mark 1:29)
 - b) Sons of Zebedee, were called Boanerges “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17); cousins of Jesus through their mothers (cf. John 19:25; Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40); coworkers with Peter and Andrew (Luke 5:1-11)
 - i) *James/Jacob* (later killed by Herod Agrippa I in Acts 12:2)

- ii) *John* (his brother; writer of John, 1-3 John, and Revelation; the one who Jesus loved)
- 2) Group 2—6:14-15
 - a) **Philip** (from Bethsaida; John 1:44)
 - b) *Bartholomew/Nathaniel* (friend or brother of Philip)
 - c) *Matthew/Levi* (the tax collector; worked for the government)
 - d) *Thomas/Didymus* (“the twin”), (the doubter, cf. John 20:24-29)
- 3) Group 3—6:15-16
 - a) **James**/*Jacob the son of Alphaeus*
 - b) *Simon who was called the Zealot* (the patriot; against the government)
 - c) *Judas/Thaddaeus* (“the courageous”) *the son of James/Jacob* (not Iscariot)
 - d) *Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.* (probably the only non-Galilean; always listed last)

What is the significance of Jesus selecting these 12 men?

- 1) Generally
 - a) **Negatively:** These men were not great, or rich, or noble, or highly connected. Not one was a Pharisee, or scribe, or priest, or ruler, or elder among the people.
 - b) **Positively:** These men were considered uneducated and unsophisticated (Acts 5:13).
 - c) The leaders of the early church did not emerge by accident, vote, or because they applied for the job; they were handpicked men by none other than Jesus Himself to be His authorized representatives.
- 2) Specifically
 - a) Twelve future judges of the twelve tribes of Israel—Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:29-30
 - b) Twelve facets of the foundation of the church—Ephesians 2:20
 - c) Twelve names written on the foundations of the New Jerusalem—Revelation 21:14