

Big moments in Jesus' life

Home Group Notes 6

Jesus' choice of twelve Mark 3:13-19

Introduction

Jesus' choice of 12 followers (to share with and mentor) was one of the big moments in his life. Meeting lifelong friends is like that.

1. Test part A: Write down as many as you can of the names of Jesus' 12 disciples.
2. Do you find it easy to find friends? Did you choose them or did they choose you?
3. Did Jesus choose his followers or did they choose him?
4. Which of those (choosing or chosen) is true of you becoming Jesus' follower? Is that important for you? How?
5. **Read Mark 3:13-15.** Did Jesus choose the 12 all at once? Why did he choose 12? Does 'the mountainside' give a clue? Which Old Testament figure is suggested and why? How was Jesus starting a whole new people of God?
6. What is the difference between disciples and apostles? How important was it for them to be both?
7. The first aspect of the calling was that they were with him. How might this be important? Why might this be difficult?
8. Is it helpful to you that the first aspect of being one of Jesus' chosen people is to be in fellowship with him? How are you in fellowship with Jesus? How is this when Jesus is in heaven?
9. The second aspect of the calling was to go and preach. How essential is preaching in the work of those called to ministry?

10. J.C.Ryle, the Macclesfield-born first Bishop of Liverpool, wrote "The brightest days of the Church have been when preaching has been honoured; the darkest days of the Church have been those when it was lightly esteemed"
Discuss.
11. The third calling was to wisely use their authority to drive out demons. What do you make of this?
12. Have you noticed in the baptism service how we are required to reject the devil and all rebellion against God and encouraged to fight valiantly against the devil? Do you consider with whose authority you should do this? And how?
13. **Read Mark 3:16-19** Why did he give Simon a nickname? What might James and John's nickname have been about? These formed his closer core group of friends and followers. Why might Jesus have chosen them especially?
14. Did Jesus make a mistake choosing Judas as one of the 12?
15. Test part B: Write down as many as you can of the names of Jesus' 12 disciples. Compare your success with the first go!
16. Rob would like 12 people to be the 12 apostles in a mock up of Da Vinci's Last Supper on Maundy Thursday evening. Although it is not how Jesus did things, he wonders are there any volunteers?

Prayer Points

*Thank the Lord that he has chosen us to be his
Pray for those of us who find friendship difficult
Thank the Lord for friends and friendship
Thank the Lord for the ministry of the 12 and their families
Pray that we might be more aware of our calling and willing to serve*