

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Ministry With Misfits

Passage: Luke 6:12-19 (ESV)

Illustration: “With the first pick of the 2021 NFL draft the Jacksonville Jaguars select, Trevor Lawrence QB, Clemson.”

Need: Jesus is the Son of man, the fully authoritative Son of God, to whom all man’s tradition must submit.

I. The misfits He chose on purpose (6:12-16)

- The Jewish leadership had made their choice to reject Jesus. Jesus now begins the discipleship process.
- Before choosing His official ministry team He spends the night in concentrated prayer.
- This scene gives us a very interesting glimpse at the humanity of the God the Son and His surrendered dependence on God the Father.
- A disciple is a listener/learner/follower while an Apostle is a called messenger who carries the authority of his sender.
- Not at random, Jesus chooses a very strange cast of characters:
 - 4 uneducated crass fishermen (Peter, Andrew, James & John)
 - 1 hated tax collector (Matthew/Levi)
 - 1 radical nationalist (Simon the Zealot)
 - 1 cynic (Bartholomew/Nathaniel)
 - 1 doubter (Thomas)
 - 3 other nobodies (Philip, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus/Judas son of James)
 - 1 qualified financial guy, a “man from Kerioth” (Ish-kerioth) a town in southern Judea.

II. The ministry He would use to prepare them (6:17-19)

- These 12 men would travel with, eat with, learn from and experience 3 1/2 years of divine discipleship.
- What Jesus did that they too would do: Preach the kingdom, Heal the sick, Cast out demons.
- One would depart and be replaced. 11 would be transformed by their Master into an unimaginable group of world changers

III. Application

- Effectiveness as a follower of Jesus will never be about what you bring to His table.
- God loves to pick impossible broken people to accomplish His radically divine purpose.
- The Church is a crazy diverse group often with Jesus & His gospel as the only common denominators.
- If some in the body make you uncomfortable, Jesus probably put them there to do His work in you.
- Not everyone is going to stay. Some will abandon the faith and break your heart. Keep going.
- Every Christian should have someone actively discipling them and someone(s) they are actively discipling.