

THE MASTER'S MEN, PART 3
LUKE 6:12-16

- Apostle means “one who is sent.”

- Jesus sent:

¹⁴ Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

- We've taken a look at the first 8; now let's turn to the 9th.

9. James the Less or James son of Alphaeus

- a. How would you like to be called James the Less or Little Jimmy.
- b. He is not James the Greater as in Peter, James and John.
- c. Not James the Rock, the rock of the church in Jerusalem, half brother to Jesus.
- d. No, he's Al's boy, the son of Alphaeus.
- e. James is a listener, learner and is faithful.
- f. James blooms where he's planted; he does what he is asked to do.
- g. He's the guy in the back of the church.
- h. Aren't you glad he's included in the 12?
- i. I have a sneaking suspicion that a whole lot of us identify with James.
 - (1) Maybe you're not excited about martyrdom like *Thomas*.
 - (2) Maybe you're not ready to charge ahead like *Peter*.
 - (3) Maybe you get nervous around people; you're shy like James.
 - (4) Maybe you don't get excited about reading a history of the OT like Nathanael.
- j. If you're a James, you're just there.

- k. Maybe you're just etcetera evangelists to be just what God wants you to be.
- l. People who are always ready to go to battle.
- m. After praying all night, Jesus said, "I want this man."
- n. And the others said, "Little Jimmy..Are you sure?"

10. **Simon the Zealot**

- a. Everytime he's mentioned the adjective "zealot" is added to his name.
- b. He's the only one whose political party is mentioned.
- c. Do you know what a zealot is?
 - (1) If he lived in the 1960s, he would have been a Black Panther.
 - (2) If he lived in Ireland, he would be a part of the IRA.
 - (3) The IRA in 1916 held up in a post office in Dublin and took on the British Empire.
- d. A zealot was not like a Pharisee who lived separate from Rome and a holy life.
 - (1) A zealot was not like a Sadducee who tried to fit into Rome and change their doctrine to fit Rome.
 - (2) The zealots formed guerilla bands, took up arms and killed Romans.
 - (3) They were hit men!
 - (4) The zealots were the men in AD 70 who had locked the gates and declared themselves independent from Rome.
 - (5) They were going to fight the Roman Empire to the death.
 - (6) Everyone left Jerusalem except a band of men, the zealots.
 - (7) This was when the Roman legion, under the emperor Titus Vespasian, came through Jerusalem and burned it to the ground.

- e. Jesus didn't take the holy Pharisees who were better than everyone else or the compromising Sadducees; he took a zealot.
- f. I think Simon understood that the problem with Israel wasn't Rome but the Israelites themselves and that only God can redeem man.
- g. He was a wild-eyes kamakazzie and Jesus wanted him!
- h. This is a bull-dog type personality; the type of person that will argue with a post.
- i. A zealous, cause-oriented person; a person with a sense of right and outrage.
- j. Many people want to become lawyers, journalists or go in to politics like Simon the Zealot!
- k. Only God can change hearts.
 - (1) Men have to be rightly related to God, the author of man's heart by the illumination of man's heart so that he can walk by truth and live happy and peaceful.
- l. The "zealots" see that man's deepest need can only be met through Jesus Christ.
 - (1) He's the only way a deep change can come about in man's heart.
- m. This is to be a fact among us because the fact is we are simply followers of the historic Jesus who keep the teaching of God.
 - (1) We happen to believe that men are under the bondage of the devil:
 - (2) they are darkened to God and thus are dead to themselves and to God.
 - (3) They are dead to marriage, sex, children, which means people under the deception of error make are going to mess up and foul up history.
 - (4) They are going to hurt their relationships, morality, marriages, children, health, until finally they destroy everything.
 - (5) This is the biblical perspective of anthropology and history.
 - (6) You can't change man by politics or education because man will not recognize a right standard of a true king.

- (7) You have to get his heart and kill him and unite him to someone who is right to God and resurrect him.
- (8) That is called Christianity.
- (9) And people who can wield that gospel, people who are killers—an evangelist is a killer (someone who can go out and slay a man to himself and raise him up anew)—can change societies.
- n. This is the only profession that will not frustrate you if you are a killer. A revolutionary force!
- o. Christianity is that which he brings about: getting men in right relationship with God and thus in right relationship to the world in which they live.

11. **Jude Thaddeus** (v. 15)

- a. He's an easy guy to preach because he has only one line in the entire Bible.
- b. When is the last time you heard a message on Jude Thaddeus?
- c. (John 14:22) ²² *Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"*
- d. He is the visionary. He has a problem that only believers have disclosed to them the person of God. How about everyone else in the world?
- e. He can't live with the fact that the world doesn't have the good news!
- f. Some people just cannot stand it that the finished work of Christ has brought salvation and many do not know him.
- g. The one who has to speak is Jude Thaddeus.
- h. When you don't share a passion with God for missions, you don't have much in common with God.

12. **Judas Iscariot**: And I hope none of us fit right here. (v. 16)

- a. Judas Iscariot is the only apostle from the south. He is from the educated place in Israel.
- b. He is the money keeper, not Matthew.

- c. At the Last Supper, John is on the right side of Jesus and Judas is on the left.
- d. Judas is always pious.
 - (1) Mary broke an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume and poured it on Jesus head.
 - (2) Judas spoke up and wanted to know this perfume wasn't sold for 300 denari and given to the poor.
- e. Judas is the recognized leader; Dr. Judas. He is smart and educated.
- f. No one thought Judas was the one; it didn't appear that he was the one skimming money off the top.
- g. When Jesus tells him to go do what he is going to do quickly most thought that since he was the money keeper, he was going to prepare the Feast.
- h. Judas had a secret life because he didn't believe.
- i. Do you know when Judas turned on Jesus?
- j. It was way back in John 6:64 when Judas realized that Jesus' blessing was not going to be physical but spiritual.
- k. In fact, immediately after this Jesus says of him, "Yet there are some of you that do not believe."
- l. The reason Judas became a "believer" was because he thought their were physical, financial, and political reaping that came from following Jesus.
- m. He did all the external things: he held office in the church, but on the side he's skimming money and is evil.
- n. Are there people like this in the church? I will guarantee there are!
- o. They are unconverted, educated, well-to-do, and well received.
 - (1) But they are here for the wrong reasons.
 - (2) They don't love God and they don't know God.
- o. Do you know what? Jesus knew him and he got exposed.

- p. He was not repentant but remorseful.
- q. And Peter said he went to his own place.
- r. That place today is called the field of blood. God knows them.

CONCLUSION