

Questions, Quotes and Notes

July 31, 2022

Luke 6:12-16: Jesus, Apostles and You

Pre-Sermon:

Here are some questions to think about to get you ready to listen to the sermon on Sunday.

1. What do you think of when you hear the word apostle?
2. Which apostles can you name?
3. Why do you think understanding what the Bible teaches about apostles might be important for understanding church leadership?
4. What did an apostle do?

Mid-Sermon:

Someone once said if you don't understand the role of apostles you are going to have a hard time understanding the history of redemption. You certainly will have a hard time understanding how leadership works in the church, which is why, as we are looking at this text, we are going to think about this from the ground up answering three questions: 1.) What is an apostle? 2.) How did you become an apostle? 3.) What did apostle's do?

But instead of having you simply focus on listening for an outline, I want to give you some important ideas to listen for. So, as you come to the service, bring a piece of paper and a pen, and see if you can answer these questions as I preach.

1. This message is part of a series. What is the overall series about?
2. What are the two different ways we could talk about leadership in the church? What way are we focusing on today?
3. What are some common misunderstandings people have about apostles today and why might those misunderstandings be so significant?
4. What are two slightly different ways the word apostle is used in the Bible?
5. What Aramaic word would Jesus have used for apostle and what would people have thought of when they heard that term?
6. How were the apostles connected to Jesus' mission?
7. What 'songs' in Isaiah give insight into that mission and how do they help us understand why Jesus chose 12 apostles?
8. The apostles had a significant role, but were they chosen because they were especially significant themselves? What important lesson does that teach us about leadership in the church?
9. How did someone become an apostle? What requirement do we learn in Acts 1 about being an apostle?
10. What were the five things an apostle were chosen to do?

11. In what way were the apostles authoritative that elders and deacons are not?
12. How do elders exercise authority in the church today?

- Important Cross References:

There are a lot of cross references in the passage today. Because of that, I am going to write them here so that you will be able to keep up as you listen to the sermon.

1. 2 Corinthians 8:23: "As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ."
2. Isaiah 49:1-6: "Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me, he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' But I said, 'I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord and my recompense with my God.' And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him - for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength - he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'"
3. Acts 1:21-22: "So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us - one of these men must become with us a witness of the resurrection."
4. Matthew 19:28: "Truly I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."
5. Acts 1:8: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
6. John 16:12-15: "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you."
7. Ephesians 3:1-5: "For this reason, I Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles - assuming you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made

known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.”

8. Acts 20:29ff: “After my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

Notes:

Post Sermon:

- Important Quotes:
 1. The Mishnah on the Shaliah: The one sent by the man is as the man himself.”
 2. “They lacked spiritual understanding, which is a big problem for doing spiritual work, obviously. They lacked humility. They were frankly self-consumed, self-centered and self-promoting and proud. They lacked faith. At least four times in the gospel of Matthew He calls them, ‘O you of little faith. They lacked courage. As long as there were miracles all over the place, and as long as everything was going great and the crowds were there, it was fine. But as soon as the soldiers came into the garden to arrest Jesus, they were gone.” (John MacArthur)
 3. And so if you are looking for some human explanation as to why these men made such an impact, why these men became apostles, you are not going to find one. It’s not like Jesus had this little list, check, check, check, ok you measure up, I choose you. If anything it was, who doesn’t have understanding, who doesn’t have humility, who doesn’t have courage, check, check, I choose you.
 4. “A faithful apostle carried his office over into the resurrection life.”
 5. “The church is built on the New Testament Scriptures. They are the church’s foundation documents.” (John Stott)
 6. “...the writings of the apostles – that is, the New Testament Scriptures that were written or authorized by apostles – have replaced living apostles in the church.” (Wayne Grudem)
- Application:

1. What difference would it make if someone believed there were apostles like the 12 now?
2. In what ways is knowing what an apostle is and how someone became an apostle and what the apostles were intended to do practically important?
3. What can we learn about leadership in the church now from looking at what the Bible teaches about apostles?

- How Well Was I Listening Questions:

Here are some questions you can ask your children after listening to the message.

1. What passage did we study?
2. What is an apostle?
3. Why were there 12 apostles?
4. Why can't we have apostles like the 12 apostles today?
5. How do these apostles still impact the church?
6. Did Jesus choose the 12 apostles because they were so important? What does that tell you about living for Jesus and making an impact for Jesus today?