

Introduction

A little over two years ago, a pastor came back from the national conference meeting for their group of churches. At the conference, they encouraged churches to ordain women of color in their churches. They said that women had been discriminated against and they needed to ordain more women of color to get the pastoral teams in their church more balanced. When I heard this pastor share this, I was greatly disappointed in the senior leadership of that group of churches. We do not ordain people into office because of their sex. We do not ordain people into office because of their color. We do not ordain people into office to get our racial or sexual percentages into a socially acceptable range. We ordain people that God has called to a certain office in the church, whether it is as an apostle, elder, or deacon. We ordain those that God has chosen.

The decision to ordain people is a weighty one, deserving prayer, fasting, and careful consideration. In 1 Timothy 5:22 Paul exhorted Timothy not to lay hands on anyone too hastily and share responsibility for the sins of others. We need to make sure that the person in consideration meets the qualifications for the office, and that we have heard clearly from the Lord about the person. The laying on of hands signifies three things, identification, confirmation and impartation. When we lay hands on someone, we are confirming the call of God for that office, and that should only be done after prayer and careful consideration.

(1 Tim 5:22) “Do not lay hands upon anyone *too* hastily and thereby share *responsibility* for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin.”

Our text this morning is Mark 3:13-19, and it is about Jesus appointing the twelve apostles. Jesus went up on the mountain and prayed about the decision. In fact, He prayed all night about the decision. He did not take the decision lightly. Afterwards, He summoned those that He wanted, and He ordained twelve of them to be apostles. He ordained them so that they could be with Him and so that He could send them out to preach. Let’s read our text.

(Mark 3:13-19) “And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. {14} And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He *could* send them out to preach, {15} and to have authority to cast out the demons. {16} And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), {17} and James, the *son* of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder"); {18} and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; {19} and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.”

The Twelve Apostles Are Chosen (Mark 3:13-19)

1. Jesus Went Up To The Mountain (Mark 3:13)
2. Jesus Appointed Twelve Apostles (Mark 3:14-19)
3. Jesus Empowered The Apostles (Mark 3:14-15)

1. Jesus Went Up To The Mountain (Mark 3:13)

Our passage begins with Jesus going up on the mountain. The parallel account in Luke says that “He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.” Sometimes Jesus went to the mountain to spend time with His disciples.

(Mark 3:13) “And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him.”

(Luke 6:12) “It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.”

In Luke 9:28-29, Jesus took Peter and John with Him to the mountain to pray. That is where they saw Jesus transfigured. But, the majority of times that we find Jesus going to the mountain, He went to pray, and pray alone. I believe that Jesus had a couple of favorite places to pray. He liked to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane and He liked to pray on the mountain.

In Matthew 14:23, Jesus had just finished ministering to the crowds (and feeding the five thousand), and He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. (See Mark 6:46.) We are called to pray corporately. The early church was devoted to prayer and prayed corporately. But, each of us are called to a life of prayer. Our prayer life should resemble an iceberg. Our corporate prayer, what is seen in public, should be like an iceberg. The part of the iceberg that is seen is nothing compared to what is below the surface. The bulk of the iceberg is hidden below the water. The bulk of our prayers need to be hidden.

(Matt 14:23) “After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.”

On the sermon on the mount, Jesus warned against praying to be seen by men. He taught that we need to go into our inner rooms, close the doors, and pray to our Father who is in secret. The bulk of our prayers need to be in our inner rooms. We need to pray corporately, but it should be the tip of the iceberg.

(Matt 6:5-6) “When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. {6} "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

What was Jesus praying about? Our passage is about appointing the twelve apostles, so Jesus was praying about who to appoint as His apostles. There were many other disciples and Jesus was praying about which men were to be appointed as apostles. When it comes time to raise up leaders, and the apostles were going to be the ones that led the church, we need to hear from the Father. In John 5:19, Jesus said that He could do nothing of Himself, unless it was something He saw the Father doing. He did nothing on His own initiative, because He only did the will of the Father. Jesus went to the mountain to hear from the Father. When it comes time to appoint leaders, we need to pray and hear from our Father. “Father, who do You want to raise up? Father, what is Your timing for raising up this person(s)? We need to hear from the Father.

(John 5:19, 30) “Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner....{30} I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

The early church understood this. In Acts 13:1-4, the leaders in the church at Antioch were ministering to the Lord and fasting and the Holy Spirit told them to set apart Barnabas and Paul for the work He was calling them to do. What was that work? They were being called to the office of apostle. From here on, Paul and Barnabas are referred to as apostles. They heard from the Father and before laying hands on someone, we need to hear from the Father.

(Acts 13:1-4) “Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was *there*, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. {2} While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." {3} Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. {4} So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.”

In Acts 14:23, Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in all the churches that they planted. What was their method of raising up elders? They prayed and fasted about these decisions. Only after praying and fasting, they appointed elders in every church. They heard from the Father about who He was raising up to lead these churches.

(Acts 14:23) “When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

In Acts 20:28, Paul had been meeting with the Ephesian elders at Miletus. He exhorts them to be on guard for themselves and for the flock. Pastors need to be men of prayer, who pray over the flock. It is not just feeding the flock on Sunday mornings. They need to be praying for the flock on Monday and Tuesday morning. Notice that Paul tells these elders that the Holy Spirit had made them overseers. Paul had heard from the Father before He ordained them as elders.

(Acts 20:28) “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

2. Jesus Appointed Twelve Apostles (Mark 3:14-19)

Jesus went up to the mountain, and He prayed over this decision all night. Once He had prayed and heard from the Father, He summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. Then, Jesus appointed twelve of them.

(Mark 3:13-14a) “And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. {14} And He appointed twelve...”

I want to go back to Luke’s account to pick up a couple of details. In Mark’s account it looks like Jesus summoned the twelve, but in Luke’s account, Jesus called His disciples and chose twelve of them. Jesus had more disciples than just the twelve that He chose as apostles. The second thing that I want to point out is that Mark does not mention the word apostle, where Luke tells us that Jesus named these twelve as apostles.

(Luke 6:13) “And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:”

There is a lot of misunderstanding about apostles, so I want to take a few minutes to talk about apostles. Jesus appointed these twelve as apostles, so it is good for us to know what the office of apostle is all about. First, the word apostle comes from the Greek word *apostolos* (Strong's G652), which comes from two Greek words, *apo* + *stello*. *Apo* means apart and *stello* means set apart. Compounded together, it means one that is sent out. A good example of this is found in Acts 13, where Barnabas and Paul are ordained as apostles. The Holy Spirit said to set apart for Me Barnabas and Paul, and after laying hands on them, they sent them away. They were sent out by the Holy Spirit. From there on, Barnabas and Paul were referred to as apostles.

(Acts 13:2-4) "While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." {3} Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. {4} So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus."

Luke mentions that they are apostles, but does not say much about what these apostles were called to do. Mark tells us that these twelve were going to be with Jesus, that He was going to send them out to preach, and to have authority to cast out demons. That is not all that apostles do, but that is three specific things that these twelve apostles were going to do.

(Mark 3:13-15) "And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. {14} And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He *could* send them out to preach, {15} and to have authority to cast out the demons."

In Acts 1:1-3, after Jesus had risen from the dead, Luke tells us that Jesus gave orders to the apostles He had chosen. He presented Himself alive to them, appearing to them over a period of forty days. This confirms what Mark and Luke said about why Jesus called these apostles. He wanted witnesses of His ministry and His resurrection.

(Acts 1:1-3) "The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, {2} until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. {3} To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of* forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

In Acts 1:15-26, Peter stood up and said that they needed to appoint another man to take Judas' office (Psalm 109:8). Then, he gave the qualifications for the replacement apostle. He said, 1) that the man must have accompanied them all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among them, beginning with the baptism of John until the day that Jesus was taken up from us, 2) He must be a witness with them of His resurrection. There were two men that were put forward that met these qualifications, Barsabbas (Justus) and Matthias. They drew lots and prayed and the lot fell to Matthias, and he was added to the eleven remaining apostles.

(Acts 1:15-26) "At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, {16} "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. {17} "For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry....{20} For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let His

homestead be made desolate, and let no one dwell in it; and, 'Let another man take his office.' {21} "Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us— {22} beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these *must* become a witness with us of His resurrection." {23} So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. {24} And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen {25} to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." {26} And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles."

Remember that when Jesus summoned the disciples, He chose twelve of them to be apostles. There were others that were there at that time, and that continued to be with Jesus and the twelve that were chosen to be apostles. When it came time to replace Judas, there were others to choose from. That is an important detail.

Another thing to remember is that Jesus chose these to be with Him. When Peter gives the requirements for this replacement, he said that the man must have been with them. The apostles were going to be witnesses of the life and ministry of Jesus, and they were going to be witnesses of His death and resurrection. There are two groups of apostles. These twelve who were going to be with Jesus were known as the apostles of the Lamb. Turn to Revelations 21:12-14. John describes the heavenly Jerusalem. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates. At the gates were twelve angels and the gates had the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south, and three on the west. The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the apostles of the Lamb. These twelve apostles of the Lamb were chosen to be with Jesus and to be witnesses of His life and ministry, and of His resurrection from the dead. The apostles of the Lamb were the first type of apostle. Some people classify these apostles with a capital "A" and the next type of apostle with a small "a."

(Rev 21:12-14) "It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names *were* written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. {13} *There were* three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. {14} And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

I want to expose a couple of common errors about apostles. Many people say that there are no more apostles today they don't meet the qualifications in Acts 1, that you had to be with Jesus from the beginning and witness His resurrection. Those requirements only pertained to finding the replacement for Judas, and it was a replacement for an apostle of the Lamb. It has nothing to do with the requirements for other apostles.

We saw in Acts 13 that Barnabas and Paul were set apart to be apostles. In Acts 14:14, the scriptures say, "But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it..." I believe the scriptures to be correct. Paul and Barnabas were not with Jesus. Barnabas and Paul were not witnesses of His life and resurrection. They did not meet the requirements to be an apostle of the Lamb, but the scriptures still call them apostles.

Another error is to say that the purpose of the apostles was to write the scriptures. Most of the apostles of the Lamb did not write any of the books of the New Testament. That does not mean that they were not apostles or did not do their job. Jesus appointed these twelve to be with Him and to preach, and to cast out demons, and to be witnesses of His baptism, ministry, death, and resurrection. He did not appoint them to write the Scriptures. The Apostle Paul wrote at least thirteen of the books and he was not one of these twelve. Luke wrote Acts and the gospel of Luke and he was not one of them. John wrote five of the books, and that leaves just six books with eleven other apostles. While some of the apostles wrote some of the books, that was not the main purpose of apostles.

Another common error is that some say that Paul was the twelfth apostle and that Peter and the other apostles made a mistake by casting lots for Judas' replacement. There are nearly thirty people in the New Testament who are called apostles. I believe that the Scriptures are inerrant and that Paul, Barnabas, Apollos, Silas, Timothy, and many others are not mistakes in the Scriptures. They were apostles, but just not apostle of the Lamb. They were the second type of apostle.

Jesus said He called these twelve to be with Him and to preach. The Greek word for preach is kerusso (Strong's G2784). Kerusso means a herald, or public crier. In the context, it is a person who has a public speaking ministry in the church. There are people that can preach and there are others that don't feel gifted or called to preach. There are some knowledgeable people that are gifted teachers in a one-on-one setting, or a small group setting, but are very uncomfortable in a large group setting.

All of us are called to preach the gospel. But, when the scriptures tell us to preach the gospel, many times a different word is used. The word for preach the gospel is euaggelizo (Strong's G2097), which means someone who shares the good news. That does not mean that you have to preach from the pulpit; it simply means that you share the good news about Christ with others. All are called to euaggelizo (preach the gospel), but only certain people are called to kerusso (preach). Jim Elliff is working on a new book about these words. He believes that not all elders are called to kerusso. Not all elders have a public preaching ministry, and I believe he is quite correct. However, the apostles must be able to kerusso and euaggelizo, as both of those are part of what they are called to do.

We do not have time to look at all the things that apostles are called to do. So, I want to briefly mention the work of an apostle.

- a. Apostles preach the gospel. (Luke 9:2, Acts 2:14-41)
- b. Apostles plant new churches. (Acts 13-14, 2 Cor 10:13-16, 1 Thes 1:1, 2:9-11)
- c. Apostles lay proper foundations and establish churches. (Eph 2:20)
- d. Apostles set in order (ordain leaders) churches. (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5)
- e. Apostles protect churches from false doctrine. (1 Tim 1:3-11, Eph 4:11-13, Acts 2:42)
- f. Apostles resolve controversies in the church and bring unity. (Acts 15:1-35, Eph 4:13)
- g. Apostles impart spiritual gifts to churches. (Rom 1:11)
- h. Apostles strengthen churches. (Acts 14:22, 15:36-41, Acts 16:4-5, 1 Thes 3:2)
- i. Apostles set examples for churches. (1 Thes 1:6, 2 Thes 3:7-9, 1 Cor 4:16, 1 Cor 11:1)
- j. Apostles mentor church leaders. (Acts 15:37, Acts 16:1-4, 1 Cor 4:14-17, 2 Tim 1:2, 2 Tim 2:1-2, Titus 1:4, 1 Thess 1:1)
- k. Apostles bring correction to churches. (1 Cor 4:18-5:13, 2 Cor 13:10, 3 John 1:9-10)

- l. Apostles give oversight to churches. (1 Cor 16:1, 2 Cor 11:28, Titus 1:5, 1 Tim 1:3, 1 Thes 1:1-2, Col 1:3, 2 Thes 3:6, 14)
- m. Apostles equip the body for the work of service. (Eph 4:11-16)
- n. Apostles bring the body of Christ to maturity. (Eph 4:11-16)

Because of their work, God has appointed apostles first in the church. Paul wrote that God has appointed in the church, first apostles. The word first is *protos* (Strong's G4413), which means foremost (in time, place, order or importance). It is usually translated as first, but twice it is translated as chief. There is a reason that God has appointed apostles first. They are to preach the gospel, plant churches, lay foundations, establish churches, and bring the church to maturity.

(1 Cor 12:28) "And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues."

Jesus appointed these twelve to be the Apostles of the Lamb. They were to be with Him, preach the gospel, and cast out demons. But, there were many other things that Peter and the rest of the apostles were called to do. The gospel of Mark, which we are studying, was written by a man that Peter calls his "son." Peter probably preached the gospel to Mark. Peter also helped Barnabas in the mentoring of Mark. They raised him up to be a leader among the churches.

Who were the twelve apostles that Jesus appointed? We could probably spend a whole message on each of the twelve. I am just going to quickly go through them. The first mentioned is Peter. I believe he is mentioned first for a reason. He was the leader of these leaders, and oftentimes was the spokesman for the group. He told Jesus that he would never deny Him, and all the other apostles said the same thing. He did deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed. He left the scene weeping, but God restored him and told him to feed His lambs. He was the one who preached the message at Pentecost. He was the first leader of the church at Jerusalem. Peter was martyred upside down in Rome, and his tomb is at the Vatican.

(Mark 3:16-20) "And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), { 17 } and James, the *son* of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder"); { 18 } and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; { 19 } and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him. { 20 } And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal."

Andrew, who was a disciple of John the Baptist, and found Christ. He went home and brought Peter to Jesus. In many places Andrew and Peter are mentioned together, but not in this passage. Andrew is mentioned fourth. Both Peter and Andrew were fishermen prior to being called. Andrew was martyred in Achaia.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee were mentioned next. Jesus called them the "Sons of Thunder." When I think of thunder, I think of power. I think these two were strong and powerful ministers of the gospel. James was the first apostle to be crucified. King Herod put him to death about 44AD. (See Acts 12:1-2.) Peter was in prison with him, and he was the next one that was going to be executed, but fervent prayer was being offered up by the church, and Peter was miraculously led out of prison.

John was referred to as the one that Jesus loved. He loved all of them, but he was especially close to Jesus. John wrote five of the books in the New Testament. It is thought that John is the only apostle not to have been crucified. Tradition says that they tried to martyr him twice, once boiling him in oil and the other time with poison, and God miraculously delivered him both times. He was sentenced to the island of Patmos where he wrote the book of Revelations.

Philip is mentioned next. Philip, Peter, Andrew, James, and John were all from Bethsaida. Philip preached in Russia and France. He was crucified at Hieropolis. He was tied to a cross and stoned to death.

Bartholomew and Nathanael are thought to be the same person. Bartholomew preached in Ethiopia, Egypt, and Armenia, where he was beheaded.

Matthew and Levi are the same person. He was a tax collector prior to becoming Jesus' disciple and an apostle. He was thought to be the most well educated of the twelve apostles. Matthew preached the gospel in Ethiopia and according to tradition he was martyred on a cross and beheaded.

Thomas means twin, but we have no record of a twin brother or sister. He is more known for being a doubter for saying that he would not believe unless he saw the imprints in Jesus' hands. Thomas preached the gospel in Babylon, Iran, and India. He was martyred in India because he led Queen Tertina to Christ.

James, also called James the Less, was said to be a man of prayer. Tradition has it that his knees became hardened like camel knees because he spent so much time on them praying. He was nicknamed "Old Camel Knees" because of that. James was martyred and sawn in half.

Thaddeus is also known as Judas Thaddeus. The Judas part of his name was dropped, probably to avoid confusion with Judas Iscariot. Thaddeus was the first apostle to bring the gospel to Armenia, which is now part of Turkey. Tradition has it that he was martyred in 65 AD in Beirut, by being shot full of arrows.

Simon, or Simon the zealot was full of zeal. He took the gospel to North Africa, Spain, Syria, Mesopotamia and Persia. He was martyred in Persia, and tradition has it that he was sawn in half.

Judas Iscariot was the twelfth apostle that Jesus chose. He was the treasurer of the group, and a thief, taking money from the money bag that Jesus and the apostles used. I think of how difficult it must have been for Jesus, knowing that Judas was going to betray Him. Judas took his own life after betraying Jesus.

The apostles were witnesses of Jesus' life and ministry and resurrection. With the exception of John and Judas, they were all put to death as martyrs. The English word, martyr, comes from the Greek word, marturo, which means one who testifies unto death. These men would not have given their life for a hoax. They witnessed all the miracles, healings, resurrections from the dead, and even Jesus' resurrection, and they were willing to testify unto death.

3. Jesus Empowered The Apostles (Mark 3:

I have counseled a number of people not to accept positions of responsibility without getting the authority that is needed to carry out that responsibility. I have counseled people to step down from church boards where the pastor was making all the decisions. The board members have to give account to the government for the organization. If they have no power or authority or control over the affairs of the organization, why should they put themselves in a position where they are held responsible for what goes on in the organization. If someone is looking for a title, they may want to serve in such a position. I do not look for titles; I look at function. If you do not have the authority to carry out the duties of the position, do not do it.

When Jesus appointed the twelve, He gave them specific things to do. He appointed them to preach and to have authority to cast out the demons. Jesus gave them authority to do the things He called them to do. That is proper order and delegation. He delegated authority to them to do the things He called them to do.

(Mark 3:14-15) “And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He *could* send them out to preach, {15} and to have authority to cast out the demons.”

Notice what Luke says about this delegation of authority. “He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.” It is very clear in the scriptures that Jesus gave the apostles this authority. Jesus empowered the apostles to do the work He called them to do.

(Luke 9:1-2) “And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. {2} And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.”

When a king was set in office, he was anointed with oil and he was coronated as king, giving him authority. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down and rested on Him like a dove. That was the coronation of Jesus as King, and He was given authority. When an elder or apostle was set in office, he was anointed with oil. The ceremony of anointing someone with oil is done with the laying on of hands, which has three functions. First, it identifies the person. Second, it confirms the person. Third, there is an impartation. When Jesus appointed these twelve apostles, He would have laid hands on them and anointed them, and He would have empowered them at that time. He would have given them power and authority to do the things that He was charging them to do.

God gave authority to the apostles to build up the church. In 2 Corinthians 13:10 Paul wrote that the Lord gave him authority for building up, not tearing down. He had written a letter of correction to the church, but that correction was not to tear them down. He brought correction to them to purify them and to build them up.

(2 Cor 13:10) “For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I *need* not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.”

Authority is a good thing. Paul wrote in Romans 13 that authorities are not a cause of fear of good behavior, but of bad behavior. He said that those in authority are ministers of God for good. When Jesus empowered the twelve and gave them authority, He did it for our good. Freeing people from demonic strongholds is a good thing. Freeing people from physical afflictions is a good thing. Freeing people from sin and helping people enter into the kingdom of God is a wonderful thing. God gave these apostles authority to do good things.

In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus was about to ascend and take His place at the right hand of the Father. He gathered the eleven disciples together and spoke to them. They were first and foremost disciples of Jesus. Even though these eleven were apostles, they were Jesus' disciples. They were learning from Jesus. They were under Jesus' authority. He gathered the eleven disciples and said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Jesus had all authority. Because He had authority, He could give authority to those under Him. He then gave the mandate to the apostles to go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the commands that He had given them. He also told them that He would always be with them. He gave them a job to do and He gave them the authority to do that work. Furthermore, He said He would always be with them. Whatever work you are doing for the Lord, He is right there with you supporting you and the work He has called you to do.

(Matt 28:16-20) "But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. {17} When they saw Him, they worshiped *Him*; but some were doubtful. {18} And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. {19} Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, {20} teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

That mandate was not just for the apostles. He has called all of us to make disciples and to teach people God's word. He has given all of us authority to carry out His work. Whether you are doing His work in Albuquerque or the uttermost places of the earth, we have been empowered and given authority to do the things He has called us to do.

Conclusion and Applications

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul taught on the various gifts in the body and how important all of them are. In verse 29 he asks a rhetorical question, "All are not apostles, are they?" No, not everyone is an apostle. We have prophets, teachers, evangelists, gifts of healing, gifts of administration, gifts of mercy, service, helps, etc. We need all the gifts in the body of Christ. Jesus went up to the mountain to pray and confirm those that were chosen to be apostles. Then, He summoned them to Himself and ordained twelve of them to be His apostles, the apostles of the Lamb. He empowered them to do the work that He called them to do. God wants each of us to know our calling. He wants each of us to know what He has called us to do. He wants to empower you so that you can accomplish the work He has called you to do. Father God, I pray that You will help each of us to know our specific calling and our place in the body. I pray that we will know the work that You have called us to do. I pray that You will empower us to do that work. Release Your power and anointing on us and use us to build Your kingdom. In Jesus' name I ask. Amen.

(1 Cor 12:29a) "All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they?..."

Introduction (1 Tim 5:22, Mark 3:13-19)

1. **Jesus Went Up To The Mountain** (Mark 3:13, Luke 6:12, Matt 14:23, 6:5-6, John 5:19, 5:30, Acts 13:1-4, 14:23, 20:28)

2. **Jesus Appointed Twelve Apostles** (Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:13, Acts 13:2-4, Mark 3:13-15, Acts 1:1-3, 1:15-26, Rev 21:12-14, 1 Cor 12:28, Eph 4:11-13, Mark 3:16-20, Acts 12:1-2)

Work Of An Apostle

- a. Apostles preach the gospel. (Luke 9:2, Acts 2:14-41)
 - b. Apostles plant new churches. (Acts 13-14, 2 Cor 10:13-16, 1 Thes 1:1, 2:9-11)
 - c. Apostles lay proper foundations and establish churches. (Eph 2:20)
 - d. Apostles set in order (ordain leaders) churches. (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5)
 - e. Apostles protect churches from false doctrine. (1 Tim 1:3-11, Eph 4:11-13, Acts 2:42)
 - f. Apostles resolve controversies in the church and bring unity. (Acts 15:1-35, Eph 4:13)
 - g. Apostles impart spiritual gifts to churches. (Rom 1:11)
 - h. Apostles strengthen churches. (Acts 14:22, 15:36-41, Acts 16:4-5, 1 Thes 3:2)
 - i. Apostles set examples for churches. (1 Thes 1:6, 2 Thes 3:7-9, 1 Cor 4:16, 1 Cor 11:1)
 - j. Apostles mentor church leaders. (Acts 15:37, Acts 16:1-4, 1 Cor 4:14-17, 2 Tim 1:2, 2 Tim 2:1-2, Titus 1:4, 1 Thess 1:1)
 - k. Apostles bring correction to churches. (1 Cor 4:18-5:13, 2 Cor 13:10, 3 John 1:9-10)
 - l. Apostles give oversight to churches. (1 Cor 16:1, 2 Cor 11:28, Titus 1:5, 1 Tim 1:3, 1 Thes 1:1-2, Col 1:3, 2 Thes 3:6, 14)
 - m. Apostles equip the body for the work of service. (Eph 4:11-16)
3. **Jesus Empowered The Apostles** (Mark 3:14-15, Luke 9:1-2, 2 Cor 13:10, Matt 28:16-20)

Conclusion and Applications (1 Cor 12:29)