

## Introduction

How many of you have ever been so upset about something that you prayed all night? I have had a few of those nights. I thank the Lord that I am not easily provoked and that I have very thick skin. It takes a lot to get me riled up, but I have had a few nights where I prayed all night.

Last week Donald covered the Sabbath. We learned that the Sabbath was meant for men, and not the other way around. God knew that we needed a day of rest. God knew we did not need more regulations and rules to bring us into bondage; we needed rest. We also learned that it is okay to do good on the Sabbath. It was okay to heal a withered hand on a Sabbath. The Pharisees did not accept this. Furthermore, they were filled with rage that Jesus had healed a man on the Sabbath, and they discussed what they might do to Jesus. Jesus knew their thoughts and reasonings. He knew what was going on. He knew they were plotting to kill Him. He knew His time was limited. I can only imagine that He was a little stirred up over this.

(Luke 6:11) “But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.”

Our text today starts with a phrase, “it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. Jesus may have been stirred up, like I have been on occasion, but our text today is actually about something quite different.

(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 1978, I made it through the local PGA Tour Qualifier in El Paso. Then, I made it through the Regional Qualifier in Oklahoma City. The finals were held at the University of New Mexico south course. I shot a 75 the first round. A fellow pro, Bill Tate, who was from Canada, came up to me and said there would be other years for me. That was enough to get my engines revved up. I put it into gear and ended up finishing 13<sup>th</sup>. I was twenty-one years old, and had become the youngest player on the PGA Tour.

Our text today is how Jesus chose the twelve apostles and began to train them. I believe that this encounter with the Pharisees reminded Him that His days were numbered. He knew that He was going to go to the cross and die for our sins. It had been planned from the beginning. Luke records part of Peter’s sermon at Pentecost in Acts 2. He says, “this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God...” Jesus knew all along that He had come to give His life as a ransom for our lives. Jesus had work to do and time was of the essence. The encounter with the Pharisees spurred Him on to get going with the plan for the church.

(Acts 2:23) “this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.”

**Jesus was on a mission.** He had been anointed to preach the gospel, heal the sick, and set free the captive. But that was not all that He had come to do. Jesus, the bridegroom, is going to come back again for His bride, which is the church. He is coming back for a bride that is spotless and without wrinkle. Jesus was not going to be around to preach the gospel. Jesus was not going to be around to

bring the church to maturity, and to help her work out her salvation. **Jesus had a plan to prepare the bride.** Our message today is about Jesus launching His plans for the church by choosing His twelve apostles and then beginning to train them to do the work of preparing the bride.

(Eph 5:25-32) “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, {26} so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, {27} that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.... This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

Let’s read our text together.

(Luke 6:12-19) “It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. {13} And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles: {14} Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew; {15} and Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot; {16} Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. {17} Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place; and there was a large crowd of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, {18} who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. {19} And all the people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing them all.”

## 1. Jesus chooses the apostles

The first part of Jesus’ plan was to choose twelve apostles who could carry on the work He had begun. These twelve apostles would continue to preach the gospel when He was gone. These twelve apostles would continue to heal the sick when He was gone. These twelve apostles would continue to set the captive free. These twelve apostles would teach the church kingdom principles. They would teach the church to love God with all their heart. These twelve apostles would teach people about loving their neighbor. These twelve apostles would teach people how to become fishers of men. These twelve apostles would teach people about how to handle money. They would teach the church how to have healthy relationships. They would teach the church how to forgive one another and to work out their differences. These twelve apostles would teach the church how to handle their finances. These twelve apostles would teach the church how to pray. These twelve apostles had a huge task in front of them, and it was very important to choose carefully.

Therefore, Jesus went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. He wanted to talk to the Father about which of the disciples were to be chosen. He wanted to hear from the Father. Jesus said He only did what He saw the Father doing. He only spoke what He heard the Father saying. Jesus wanted to get clear direction from the Father about the twelve, so He spent the whole night in prayer.

(Luke 6:12-13) “It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. {13} And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:”

I want to spend a little time giving you understanding of apostles. Once you have a better understanding of apostles, the passage will make more sense to you.

The word apostle is a transliteration of the Greek word, apostolos. The word is used seventy-nine times in the New Testament. Apostolos comes from two root words: apo, which means away from, and stello, which means to arrange, prepare, or gather up. The combination of the two root words means to send away. **Apostles are sent ones.** They have been called and sent to do a particular work. Jesus is going to do some training of these twelve men and then He is going to send them out. In Luke 9, which we will cover in a couple months, Jesus sends out the twelve. They are sent ones.

(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.”

We find that Jesus gave them power and authority, and then sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing. They would do far more than that, but at this point, this is what He sent them to do.

In Hebrews 3:1, Jesus is referred to as the Apostle and High Priest. Jesus was sent by the Father. In John 5:36-38, Jesus tells us three times that He had been sent by the Father. What is an apostle? He is a sent one, and Jesus had been sent by the Father. That is why He is called the Apostle.

(Heb 3:1) “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;”

(John 5:36-38) “But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me. {37} "And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. {38} "You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent.”

When the Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Paul to apostolic work, Luke records that they were sent out. We are introduced to the leadership team at Antioch. It says there were prophets and teachers. Barnabas is mentioned first, because he is the lead pastor. It also mentions that there were prophets and teachers, we also know that Barnabas was a prophet. Saul or Paul is mentioned last, and he is a teacher. Neither of them are called apostles. Barnabas was operating in the office of a prophet and Paul was operating in the office of a teacher.

(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.”

After the Holy Spirit said to set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work which He had called them to do, the leadership team fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them. Notice the pattern. There is a call. There is a time of pressing in to the Lord through prayer and fasting. Then, there is a laying on of hands and placing people into a position of ministry. We are told not to lay hands on anyone too quickly. These decisions should be bathed in prayer before acting upon them.

The laying on of hands signifies three things. First, **the laying on of hands signifies confirmation.** It is a confirmation that this person has been called. In the Old Testament, the confirmation also represented confirmation in a legal sense. When someone was accused of wrong doing, the witnesses would lay hands on the accused and confirm that this was the guilty person.

(Lev 24:14) ""Bring the one who has cursed outside the camp, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head; then let all the congregation stone him."

**The laying on of hands signifies identification.** When a scapegoat or sin offering was made, they would lay hands on the head of the animal. The sins of the person were identified with the animal to be sacrificed.

(Lev 1:4) "And he shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, that it may be accepted for him to make atonement on his behalf."

Third, **the laying on of hands signify impartation.** Hands denote power, strength, and rule. The laying on of hands imparted authority, power, and strength to rule. When someone was anointed as king, they would be anointed with oil and hands would be laid upon him. Through the laying on of hands, we see an impartation of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, healing, and signs and wonders. The pastoral team in Antioch was careful to fast and pray to confirm that the Lord had spoken and chosen Barnabas and Paul before they confirmed this through the laying on of their hands.

(Deut 34:9) "Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses."

After they had laid hands on them, they sent them away. That is the definition of an apostle, a sent one. In verse 4, Luke writes that they have been sent out by the Holy Spirit. Now that they are sent ones, they should be called apostles, which is what we find. In chapter 14, it says that some of the people of Iconium sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles, i.e. Barnabas and Paul. A few verses later, Luke writes, "but when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes. Barnabas and Paul are now apostles because they have been sent out. That is the definition of an apostle. They are not just sent out, but they are sent with a mission. They were sent to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.

(Acts 14:4) "But the people of the city were divided; and some sided with the Jews, and some with the **apostles.**"

(Acts 14:14) "But when the **apostles** Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out..."

What is the work of an apostle? We could spend a couple months on this topic, but I only want to give you a very quick overview of the work of an apostle. Here are eleven specific things that apostles do.

### **The Work of an Apostle**

1. **Apostles preach the gospel.** (Luke 9:2, Acts 2:14-41)
2. **Apostles plant new churches.** (Acts 13-14, 2 Cor 10:13-16, 1 Thes 1:1, 2:9-11)
3. **Apostles lay proper foundations and establish churches.** (Eph 2:20)
4. **Apostles set in order (ordain leaders) churches.** (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5)
5. **Apostles give proper doctrine and protect churches.** (1 Tim 1:3-11, Eph 4:11-13, Acts 2:42)
6. **Apostles resolve controversies in the church and bring unity.** (Acts 15:1-35, Eph 4:13)
7. **Apostles impart spiritual gifts to churches.** (Rom 1:11)
8. **Apostles strengthen churches.** (Acts 14:22, 15:36-41, Acts 16:4-5, 1 Thes 3:2)
9. **Apostles set examples for churches.** (1 Thes 1:6, 2 Thes 3:7-9, 1 Cor 4:16, 1 Cor 11:1)
10. **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)
11. **Apostles bring correction to churches.** (1 Cor 4:18-5:13, 2 Cor 13:10, 3 John 1:9-10)
12. **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)
13. **Apostles equip the body for the work of service.** (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."

Notice what Paul writes to the Ephesians about the work of an apostle. Apostles are to equip the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ, until we attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man. **Apostles are to equip, build up, and bring the body to maturity.**

(Eph 4:11-13) "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, {12} for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; {13} until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

Why is this decision so important to Jesus that He spends the whole night in prayer? It is because these twelve men are going to preach the gospel in Jerusalem. These twelve men were going to plant the church in Jerusalem. These twelve men were going to lay foundations in the church in Jerusalem. These twelve men were going to ordain elders or pastors in the church in Jerusalem. These twelve men are going to equip the Jerusalem church. These twelve men were going to carry on the work of Jesus after He has gone back to be with the Father.

Who were these twelve men that Jesus called to be apostles? Luke gives the names of the twelve apostles. They are Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon, Judas, and Judas Iscariot.

(Luke 6:14-16) “Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew; {15} and Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot; {16} Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.”

When Judas betrayed Jesus, Peter stood up and prophesied that they were to choose another man to take his place. They put forth two men, could not determine which one was supposed to be numbered with them, so they drew lots. Matthias was chosen and numbered with the twelve.

(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." {18} (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. {19} And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) {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.”

Notice that Peter said that someone had to be chosen that had accompanied them all the time that the Lord Jesus was with them, and he had to be a witness of His resurrection. Because of these requirements many theologians say there are no more apostles, because there are not people today that were with Jesus and were witnesses of His resurrection. They also say that Matthias was a mistake and Paul was the twelfth apostle. That is incorrect. These apostles are called the apostles of the lamb in the book of Revelations. **The qualifications given in Acts pertain only to the twelve apostles of the Lamb.** If you say that Matthias is not an apostle, you contradict God’s word. If you say that Barnabas is not an apostle, you are contradicting God’s word. If you say that Paul is an apostle of the Lamb, you are contradicting God’s word. The apostles of the Lamb are the ones that Jesus chose in our text today, minus Judas Iscariot, and with the addition of Matthias.

(Rev 21:14) “And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”

Theologians say that the role of the apostles was to canonize the word of God. Once the Scriptures were written and canonized, there was no need for apostles. Again, they are incorrect. There are still churches being planted. Foundations still need to be laid. Leadership still needs to be raised up. Good doctrine still needs to be taught. The gospel still needs to be preached. The work of the apostle is needed today as much as in the first century.

Many theologians are ignorant of how many apostles are actually mentioned in the Scriptures. In addition to the twelve apostles of the Lamb, there are numerous other apostles. Here are eleven other people who are specifically mentioned as apostles.

### **Other Apostles**

1. Paul (Ac 14:14, Rom 1:1, Rom 11:13, 1 Cor 1:1, 2 Cor 1:1, Gal 1:1, Gal 2:8-9, Eph 1:1, Col 1:1, 1 Th 1:1-2:7, 1 Tim 1:1, 2 Tim 1:1, Titus 1:1)
2. Barnabas (Ac 14:14, Gal 2:8-9)
3. Apollos (1 Cor 4:6-9)
4. Andronicus (Rom 16:7)
5. Junias (Rom 16:7)
6. James, the Lord's brother (Gal 1:19)
7. Silvanus (1 Th 1:1-2:7)
8. Timothy (1 Th 1:1-2:7)
9. Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25)
10. Titus (2 Cor 8:23, Titus 1:4-5)
11. Luke (2 Cor 8:18)

Notice that Luke, who wrote this gospel that we are studying is on that list. I want to draw your attention to 2 Corinthians 8:18-23. Paul writes, "we have sent along with him the brother whose fame in the things of the gospel has spread through all the churches." This person who was famed in the gospel is recognized by most scholars to be Luke. In verse twenty-three, he writes, "as for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches.

In my opinion, this is an incorrect translation. The word *apostolos* is used seventy-nine times, and it is translated as messenger two times, and this is one of those times. Luke is more than just a messenger carrying and administering a gift to the churches. He was on Paul's apostolic team, traveling all over Europe and Asia with Paul. He wrote the gospel of Luke as well as the book of Acts. He had developed a reputation for being a loving physician as well as a powerful evangelist.

(2 Cor 8:18-23) "We have sent along with him the brother whose fame in the things of the gospel has spread through all the churches; {19} and not only this, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and to show our readiness, {20} taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift; {21} for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. {22} We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent because of his great confidence in you. {23} As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, they are messengers (*apostolos*) of the churches, a glory to Christ."

Notice in that list a person named Junias. Historians tell us that Junias is a ladies name, not a man's name. Could it be that there was a lady apostle? Heaven forbid that a woman could preach, plant a church, lay a foundation in a church, and do apostolic work. To me, it is not something to argue about. I do not have a problem with God using a woman to do any of that. John Dean told me of a woman in Asia who has planted more than one hundred churches. She continues to plant churches and oversee the ones that she has planted. She is doing apostolic work. Whoever this Junias was, she or he was regarded as outstanding among the apostles.

(Rom 16:7) "Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me."

In addition to those eleven who are specifically mentioned as apostles, there are a number of other people that are likely apostles because of the work they did. This list includes: Jude, Aquila, Urbanus, Apelles, Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus. The point of this is not to debate whether these were all apostles, but to let you know that there are many apostles in Scripture, not just the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The work of an apostle is still needed in the church today.

### **Probable Apostles**

1. Jude (Jude 1:1) (wrote book of Jude, which many consider the work of an apostle)
2. Aquila (Prisca is his wife, the use of fellow workers implies work of apostle, and their work was unto all the churches of the Gentiles. They also planted a church in Rome.) (Rom 16:3-4)
3. Urbanus (the use of fellow worker implies work of apostle) (Rom 16:9)
4. Apelles (the use of the approved implies approved as a worker (2 Tim 2:15, Rom 16:10)
5. Stephanas (Ministered to body of Christ, not just to local church) (1 Cor 16:15-18)
6. Fortunatus (Ministered to body of Christ, not just to local church) (1 Cor 16:15-18)
7. Achaicus (Ministered to body of Christ, not just to local church) (1 Cor 16:15-18)

## **2. Jesus Begins Training the Apostles**

After Jesus chose the twelve, He came down with them and stood on a level place. The disciples and apostles had just had a mountain-top experience. Twelve of them had just been chosen for apostolic ministry. They had been with Jesus just a short time. He had encouraged them to come and follow Him. He had promised to make them fishers of men. Now, He had called some of them to apostolic ministry, and they probably had very little idea what He had in mind. From this point on, Jesus begins to train these men in apostolic ministry. He cannot pour Himself into hundreds of people, but He can pour Himself into these twelve men. **Jesus showed the apostles how to minister.**

(Luke 6:17-19) "Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place; and there was a large crowd of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, {18} who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. {19} And all the people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing them all."

Luke writes that there was a great throng of people from all over who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases. Many believe that in the last days that there will be an outpouring of healing. I believe it. There is a tremendous need for healing today, in the body of Christ and also in the world. Many people have spent everything they have on medical treatment, and are still suffering.



The medical field does a wonderful job with some things, and in other areas, they are not very successful. The outpouring of healing will attract people to the gospel, just as it did in Jesus' day.

Luke writes that the people were trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming from Him and healing them all. We are continuing to pray for more anointing and power so that people are healed and set free from unclean spirits. We are continuing to pray for an increase in faith and for God to extend His hand to perform signs and wonders. We continue to pray for His will to be done on earth, just as it is in Heaven.

What is Jesus doing? He is training His apostles. First, Jesus preaches to the multitudes. He is teaching them how to preach to the multitudes. Matthew was well educated, but most of these men were fishermen, and they had no formal education. Jesus is not only instructing them in preaching, but He is role-modeling for them. He is showing them how to do it.

When Peter preached at Pentecost, he raised his voice and began preaching. Where did he learn to do this? He learned to preach from the Master Himself. He learned how to structure a message. He learned how to illustrate a message. He learned how to bring applications in a message. He learned how to connect to his audience. He learned how to bring closure and give an opportunity to respond.

(Acts 2:14) "But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words."

Luke records that three thousand people responded to Peter's message. Then, those new converts were baptized, and began devoting themselves to the apostle's teaching. These twelve apostles had learned to preach and to teach. They were going from home to home and teaching the church. They were doing the very things that Jesus began to teach them in our passage today.

(Acts 2:41-42) "So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. {42} They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

In Acts 3, Peter heals a lame man on his way to prayer. Many people come to know the Lord because of that. The Sadducees became very upset and had Peter and John arrested. Then, Luke gives a very powerful statement about the training process that these new apostles went through. He says that the Sadducees observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, and they began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. They saw the same preaching characteristics that Jesus had. They saw the same boldness and confidence. They saw the same teaching with authority. They saw the same results – people being healed and set free. They recognized that these fishermen, who did not have a formal education, had been trained in ministry by Jesus. Where did all this begin? It began in our text today. Jesus chose these twelve men and began pouring Himself into their lives so that they could do exactly what we find Peter and John doing, preaching the gospel, healing the sick, and setting free the captives.

(Acts 4:13) "Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus."

The training began here in Luke 6, but we find in Luke 9 that He called them together, gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases, and sent them out. They were doing their student teaching before graduating. When they came back from their assignment, they reported to Jesus everything they had done.

(Luke 9:1-10) “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. {3} And He said to them, "Take nothing...{6} Departing, they began going throughout the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere....{10} When the apostles returned, they gave an account to Him of all that they had done....”

When the religious leaders in Acts 4 heard Peter preach, they were seeing a well-trained minister of the gospel. He and the other apostles had apprenticed under the very best.

### **Conclusion**

Why did Jesus spend all night in prayer? Jesus had you and I in mind. He had the church in mind. His plan was to pour Himself into these twelve apostles. These apostles were to pour themselves into others and reproduce themselves. They were to pour themselves into the churches so that we could continue to do the works of God. They were to go and preach the gospel, make disciples, baptizing and teaching in the name of Jesus.

If these apostles needed training, we also need training. We need to humble ourselves and receive training. We need training in preaching and teaching. We need to learn how to outline a passage and find the main idea. We need to learn how to construct a message. We need to learn to illustrate passages.

We need to learn how to pray for people. We need to discover our spiritual gifts and then learn how to operate in them. We need to humble ourselves and be willing to learn.

We need to learn how to share the gospel with others. This year, our focus is on evangelism. We are studying and learning from Luke, who developed quite a reputation among the churches in evangelism. Our bulletin series is on evangelism. My encouragement to all of us is to learn and grow in the areas that the Lord is trying to train us in. Take time to read and study the bulletin inserts. Memorize the verses that are given. Begin to apply the lessons you are learning.

God has a plan for our church. He is wanting to use you and I in a powerful way, not just in the East Mountains, but to the uttermost parts of the earth. God wants you and I to be effective ministers of the gospel. God also wants our body to grow and become mature, to the measure of the stature of Jesus Christ.

This morning, if you need prayer, we are not just available, we would welcome the opportunity to pray for you. We believe that God wants to bring healing to you, both body and soul. If you have never received Christ into your life, He is calling you today. He has plans for you and for your life. Let me encourage you to ask Christ to come into your life and be Lord of your life. Paul wrote in Romans that if we believe in our heart that Jesus rose from the dead and confess with our mouth that

He is Lord, we will be saved. It is that easy. If you believe, just say to the Lord, I confess You to be Lord. If you pray that this morning, please see me after the service. I want to spend a few minutes with you.

Let's pray.

**Introduction** (Luke 6:11-12, Acts 2:23, Luke 6:12-19)

- Jesus was on a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus had a plan to prepare the \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph 5:25-32)

**1. Jesus chooses the apostles** (Luke 6:12-16, 9:1-2, Acts 1:15-26)

- Apostles (apostolos) are \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 9:1-2, Acts 13:1-4, 14:4, 14)
- The laying on of hands signify \_\_\_\_\_. (Lev 24:14)
- The laying on of hands signifies \_\_\_\_\_. (Lev 1:4)
- The laying on of hands signify \_\_\_\_\_. (Deut 34:9)

**The Work of an Apostle**

1. Apostles plant new \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 13-14, 2 Cor 10:13-16, 1 Thes 1:1, 2:9-11)
2. Apostles lay proper \_\_\_\_\_ and establish churches. (Eph 2:20)
3. Apostles set in order (\_\_\_\_\_ leaders) churches. (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5)
4. Apostles give proper \_\_\_\_\_ and protect churches. (1 Tim 1:3-11, Eph 4:11-13, Acts 2:42)
5. Apostles \_\_\_\_\_ controversies in the church. (Acts 15:1-35, Eph 4:13)
6. Apostles \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual gifts to churches. (Rom 1:11)
7. Apostles \_\_\_\_\_ churches. (Acts 14:22, 15:36-41, Acts 16:4-5, 1 Thes 3:2)
8. Apostles set \_\_\_\_\_ for churches. (1 Thes 1:6, 2 Thes 3:7-9, 1 Cor 4:16, 1 Cor 11:1)
9. Apostles \_\_\_\_\_ 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)
10. Apostles bring \_\_\_\_\_ to churches. (1 Cor 4:18-5:13, 2 Cor 13:10, 3 John 1:9-10)
11. Apostles give \_\_\_\_\_ 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)

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- God has appointed apostles \_\_\_\_\_ in the church. (1 Cor 12:28)
- Apostles are to \_\_\_\_\_, build up, and bring the body to maturity. (Eph 4:11-13)
- The qualifications given in Acts 1 pertain only to the twelve apostles of the \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 1:15-26, Rev 21:14)

### Other Apostles

1. Paul (Ac 14:14, Rom 1:1, Rom 11:13, 1 Cor 1:1, 2 Cor 1:1, Gal 1:1, Gal 2:8-9, Eph 1:1, Col 1:1, 1 Th 1:1-2:7, 1 Tim 1:1, 2 Tim 1:1, Titus 1:1)
2. Barnabas (Ac 14:14, Gal 2:8-9)
3. Apollos (1 Cor 4:6-9)
4. Andronicus (Rom 16:7)
5. Junias (Rom 16:7)
6. James, the Lord's brother (Gal 1:19)
7. Silvanus (1 Th 1:1-2:7)
8. Timothy (1 Th 1:1-2:7)
9. Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25)
10. Titus (2 Cor 8:23, Titus 1:4-5)
11. Luke (2 Cor 8:18)

### Probable Apostles

- Jude (Jude 1:1)
- Aquila (Rom 16:3-4)
- Urbanus (Rom 16:9)
- Apelles (2 Tim 2:15, Rom 16:10)
- Stephanas (1 Cor 16:15-18)
- Fortunatus (1 Cor 16:15-18)
- Achaicus (1 Cor 16:15-18)

### 2. Jesus Begins Training the Apostles (Luke 6:17-19, 9:1-10)

- Jesus shows the apostles how to \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:14, 41-42, 4:13)

### Conclusion

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