

## Twelve Ordinary Men

(Mark 3:13-19)

- I. The make-up of the Master's Men
  - A. Now you might ask yourself, "Why 12 and not 13, or 15?"
  - B. The choosing and commissioning of the 12 was a judgment on Israel's corrupt leaders.
  - C. They were given responsibility over each of the tribes of Israel.
  - D. They were the new leaders of the new Israel.
  - E. This is going to be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom when the tribes of Israel are again identified and when they are brought to their glorious kingdom in righteousness and salvation.
  - F. Each of those tribes will have a leader, a divine representative over that tribe.
- II. The Message of the Master's Men
  - A. An unmistakable message is sent to the nation that the corrupt leadership to which they have been subjected is rejected by God, judged and condemned.
    - 1. With the coming of Messiah comes a new Covenant.
    - 2. With the coming of a New Covenant comes a new leadership.
  - B. Jesus obliterates the false spiritual leadership of Israel and replaces them with a group of non-descript, low-life men and heaps scorn on their supposed elite status.
  - C. Throughout His ministry, Jesus attacked their spiritual bankruptcy, pride, hypocrisy, iniquity, cruelty and deceptiveness.
  - D. The whole religion of Judaism is set aside for the gospel of grace.
- III. The Mission of the Master's Men
  - A. None of the 12 turned in a resume with a list of all their achievements.
    - 1. They were the ones He wanted.
    - 2. It's a sovereign work, just like salvation.
  - C. They were there for the 3 years of His life.
    - 1. They were there for His ministry.
    - 2. They were there for His death.
    - 3. They were there to see Him risen from the dead.
  - D. They are the first generation of gospel preachers who preached the gospel of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone based on His work on the cross and His resurrection.
  - E. It's time now to get them trained.
    - 1. These 12 men are the hope of the spread of the gospel.
    - 2. These 12 men are the foundation of the church.
  - F. How would they know these people spoke the truth?
    - 1. Mark 3...verse 15..."He gave them authority to cast out the demons."
    - 2. The Lord gave the 12 power over disease, power over demons.
    - 4. 2 Corinthians 12:11-12 says, "These were the signs of an Apostle in signs and wonders and mighty deeds that confirmed them."
    - 2. They showed that they were preaching the truth and they represented the true and living God because of the power over disease and over demons.
  - G. Well, this is an interesting group.
    - 1. Nobody would predict that they would change the world.
    - 2. They became the recipients of divine revelation, according to Ephesians 3.
    - 3. They were the true teachers of sound doctrine, the Apostles' doctrine.
    - 4. They were the foundational stones of the church, Ephesians 2:20. .
- IV. Conclusion
  - A. Before the story was over Acts 17:6 says they had turned the world upside down.
  - B. Ordinary in every way, they were laymen, they were laborers, they worked with their hands.
  - C. They were available and they were empowered and the gospel went over the whole world and continues to do so as a legacy to their faithfulness.
  - D. Our Lord uses ordinary, weak, failing, ignorant saints because that's the only kind there are.