

2024 The Samuel Project

Steve L Cannon -UPCI CM Director

Columbus, OH / Ohio CM Conference - 4/06/2024

Luke 6:13-16 "And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor."

During the flu epidemic, which broke out during the world war, the mayor of New York City, took drastic steps to check the damage which people were doing themselves through the inherit fear of ill health. He called in the newspaper men, and said to them, gentlemen, I feel it necessary to ask you not to publish any scare headlines concerning the flu epidemic. Unless you cooperate with me, we will have a situation which we cannot control. The newspapers quit publishing stories about the flu, and within one month, the epidemic had been successfully checked.

We need more good news coming from our churches!

In the Bible, there's no better example of a "motley crew" than the men we now know as the twelve disciples. Eleven of them (all except Judas Iscariot) came from the poor rural region of Galilee, where nondescript towns dotted the hills and the shores around a large freshwater lake. At least four of them were fishermen, most likely childhood friends from the village of Capernaum. And because career options were few in that part of the country, we can safely assume that most of the rest were either fishermen, farmers or tradesmen. One of them was a zealot, part of a radical group determined to overthrow the Roman government. Another was a tax collector, considered to be a traitor by his countrymen because he actually worked for the Roman government. Those two would have been mortal enemies in any other setting, so they no doubt brought some interesting tensions to the team!

And not a single one of them came out of the religious world – there wasn't a Pharisee, Sadducee, priest, rabbi, or scribe among them.

So to put it plainly, the disciples were most definitely a "motley crew," in every way imaginable.

Notes:

The disciples seemed bigger than life, much better than us, somehow higher and holier, far greater and grander, the epitome of spiritual perfection. After

all, they literally walked and talked with Jesus Himself! If we didn't have the four gospel accounts in the New Testament to tell us differently, we would assume that they were some kind of spiritual superheroes. They couldn't possibly be subject to the same doubts and discouragements that are such a common occurrence in our own journey with Jesus. They wouldn't ever battle with trials and temptations, or succumb to fears and failures like we do. They shouldn't ever be thought of as average or ordinary or common. Certainly not them! Definitely not the twelve disciples!

And yet, the pages of Scripture reveal disciples who were very much like us, in every way. NO ONE who met them back then would have ever imagined them being commemorated in statues and stained glass. Why? Because they were every bit as frail and fragile, fickle and flawed, and as full of faults and failures as we are. And that's exactly the point!

Notes:

There are four listings of the disciples given in Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts, plus occasional mentions of their names in the gospel of John. And it is from

these scattered references that we begin to piece together the background of this unlikely group that would ultimately change the world.

- Simon (Peter) & Andrew are brothers, James & John are brothers
- Nathanael is the proper name of Bartholomew ("son of Tolmay")
 - Thomas is a twin ("didymus") but we're not sure who his sibling was
 - • Matthew was a tax collector ("publican") who worked for the Roman government!
- There was a second Simon, and he was a zealot ("zelotes") The person who wanted to overthrow the Roman government!
- There was a second James ("the son of Alphaeus")
 - There was a second Judas ("Lebbaeus Thaddaeus") – "not Iscariot"
 - Judas Iscariot is always listed last and always with the same notation

Notes:

At the time of Jesus, the Mishnah (oral law) laid out the expectations for a young man's life: **The study of the Torah would begin at the age of 5; the study of the Mishnah (oral law) would begin at the age of 10. Formal**

studies with a rabbi took place between the ages of 13 and 15. Then at 15, if the young man was exceptionally gifted, he might be chosen by a rabbi to be tutored further. But if he was just an average student, his education would be over, and he would begin to apprentice in a trade or enter the work force. **At the age of 18, he would marry a wife. At 30, only if he had been tutored by a rabbi, he would then be considered to have enough authority to become a rabbi and begin choosing disciples of his own.**

- Peter was the only one of the disciples known to have been married (Matthew 8:14), so he was definitely over 18, and probably the oldest of the disciples. This is no doubt why Jesus chose him to be the spokesman for the group on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14).
 - A Temple tax was required for males over 20 years of age (Exodus 30:14), but Jesus directed Peter to catch a fish, find a coin in its mouth, and only pay the tax for the two of them (Matthew 17:27)
“Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.”
 - **That means the rest of the disciples were under 20 years of age.**
- Because we find the disciples working in the trades when Jesus calls them, it’s pretty obvious that none of them had been “star students.” They were no doubt excited to be chosen by this traveling Rabbi, because they were eager to leave everything behind (Luke 5:11).
- Three years later, when the Sanhedrin arrested Peter and John (the oldest and the youngest of the disciples), **(one writer believed that John could have been as young as 13 when he first started following Jesus)** they took note that “they were unlearned and ignorant men,” but also marveled at their boldness and understood “they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).

- Jesus referred to His disciples more than once in the gospels as “little children” (John 13:33). That’s a bit awkward if He is talking to men His own age, but not at all awkward if He happens to be their 30-year-old teacher and they are His much younger students.

I know we often picture the disciples as middle-aged men, but that’s not exactly how the Scripture portrays them. **Most likely, at least 11 out of the 12 disciples were teenagers when they began following Jesus!** Are there any parents of teenagers here today? Ask yourselves, do these behaviors sound like mature middle-aged men, or immature teenagers?

The Macedonian Call came in the Book of Acts 16:9-10 “And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.”

Notes:

We have about 5000 Churches in North America and about 42,000 Churches worldwide. On the Association of Children's Evangelists (ACE), we only have around 42 registered or pending.

We presently have 1 children's Evangelist per 119 churches. We need MORE Children's Evangelists!

Can you hear the Children's Ministries cry: And a vision appeared to Steve in the night; There stood a burden from Children's Ministries, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Planet Earth, and help us.

I'm here to a recruiter for the future!

When Jesus wanted to change the world, He chose TEENAGERS! God is fulfilling His Promise: "Your sons and your daughters shall prophecy..." Joel 2:28

Our young saints and young ministers are not just future leaders, they are current world changers! They have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this (Esther 4:14). Right now, God is ushering into the Kingdom the young prayer warriors, soul winners, ministry leaders, and team players that we need to have revival in every church. Right now, He is anointing the young Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers that we must have to reap God's great end time harvest.

Notes:

We are here to train children to become leaders! He that rocks the cradle; rules the world! Children are being used by God!

God called to Samuel while he was in the house of Eli. He was never taught to listen to the voice of God until Eli knew that God was speaking to Samuel.

We NEED Children's Evangelists that speak Spanish, French, Italian or any foreign language to help us reach children around the world! Children's Ministries will fund a special project that will solicit, encourage and train NEW Children's Evangelists for the Future! The project is called "The Samuel Project".

Samuel was birthed by Hannah who desired a son, and in turn, she would give him to God. Samuel was raised in the temple, even though sin was abounding, Samuel listened to Eli and then to God! God used Samuel and he anointed the first two Kings of Israel: Saul and David.

"Don't spend time with dream killers. Samuel didn't spend time with Eli's sons, he spent time in the tabernacle" -ACN Missionary

These newly called Children's Evangelists will be the HERO's of the UPCI!

These children's evangelists hold the key to the future of the UPCI! As the children go, so goes the UPCI!

If Jesus did a miracle, for anybody, he can do a miracle for everybody!

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease (Matthew 10:1).

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils. Freely you have received, freely give (Matthew 10:8).

He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick (Luke 9:2).

The focus stair steps of prayer;

1. Children, youth, adults
2. Youth, adults, grands
3. Adults, grands

Things needed to build an effective World-wide Children's Evangelist;

1. Training
2. Experience
3. Financial
4. Exposure
5. Results
6. Kid culture
7. Church Ethics

And heal the sick that are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God is come near to you" (Luke 10:9).

In the Junior class, a teacher called out a 10 year old boy! It embarrassed him, but he shucked it off. It was only the 2nd time that the teacher called his name and prophecies that God would use him in the Kingdom. That 10 year old boy remained cool with his friends, but he never forgot the words of a Sunday School teacher. That boy ran from God and tried hard to find peace and acceptance with others. At the age of 18, after his first year of college; God filled him with the HG! He was baptized in Jesus name and immediately began to do whatever he could to serve God. He lead in prayer, he lead in worship and he began to seek the face of God. He soon began to feel that God was calling him to ministry. There were no ministers in his family! His father ran a

night club and his Mother was an incredible, praying Mother. His Mother once told him that he was the tithes for the family, since she had birthed 10 children. At age 19, he preached his first sermon & the year, he will celebrate his 48th year of ministry.

A 7 year old told a woman, "You can get forgiveness for that."

An 8 year old with autism moved a church with a Word from God!

Don't overlook the people that God wants to use in the last days! Your children.... NEXT STARTS NOW!

Notes: