

Called and Commissioned

Discussion Questions for Mark 3:13-19

Open It

By what criteria do you choose your friends?

What qualities do you think are important in a friend?

What qualities do you think are important for a person who is a leader in the church?

Explore It

What is the setting of this story? (3:13)

How did the apostles respond to Jesus' call? (3:13)

Why did Jesus choose His disciples? (3:14)

What did Jesus want His apostles to do with their time? (3:14-15)

What did Jesus expect of the men He designated apostles? (3:14-15)

Who would send out the apostles and give them authority to drive out demons? (3:14-15)

What sort of declaration was Jesus making to His enemies by choosing and commissioning the Twelve? (3:14-15)

What did Jesus do with some of His followers and not others? (3:16-19)

What unusual men did Jesus choose? (3:16-19)

What was unusual about some of the men Jesus chose? (3:16-19)

Get It

What criteria do you think Jesus used to choose His apostles?

Why do you think Jesus wanted the apostles to spend time with Him?

What can we learn from Jesus' example of choosing apostles to be with Him and to help Him?

What does the fact that Jesus chose as apostles both Simon the Zealot, a political extremist, and Matthew the tax collector, a traitor working for the occupying government, tell us about the kingdom of God?

How has the call of Jesus Christ in your life changed your attitude toward people with whom you previously would not have associated?

Why do you think Jesus assigned new names to some of the apostles and not to all of them?

What do you think the men themselves thought about their opportunity to be one of Christ's disciples?

What attitudes or actions do you feel still need to be changed in your life to more fully obey Christ's call to follow Him?

What difference does it make to you that Jesus chose imperfect people to share in His ministry?

What specific role do you think God has given you to fill in this world?

How can we determine how best to serve God with our particular gifts and abilities?

What do you think the leadership of your church could learn from the way Jesus chose His twelve followers?

How can you personally become more involved in teaching and helping others serve Jesus?

From what other more mature believers can you learn?

Apply It

What would be your first step toward learning from a more mature believer in your church?

In what ways can you depend on others to carry the weight of God's work at this time in your life?

What specific steps can you take this week to help one other person use in God's service a skill that God has given him or her?