

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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TWELVE MEN WHO SHOOK THE WORLD

Matthew 10

God primarily chooses to reach people through people. When God became a man and walked among us, He commissioned twelve disciples. He commissioned these twelve men to be His representatives, to go out and proclaim His gospel. These men made an impact on the society of the day, and God is still looking for individuals to do the same today.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

Among those who shook the world are:

1. **Peter** – He would speak about whatever came to his mind, and sometimes this got him into trouble. Peter was the only disciple who took a bold step in faith by walking on water with Jesus. He was transformed and mightily used.
2. **Andrew** – He was Peter's lesser-known brother, but was the first to be called by Jesus. Andrew tended to fly under the radar, he was more quiet and soft-spoken, but he was always bringing people to Jesus. He faithfully worked behind the scenes and labored quietly where God had called him, to further the kingdom.
3. **James and John** – These two brothers were known as the “Sons of Thunder.” They both had aggressive personalities and in some ways were insensitive. Despite their shortcomings, God made them into different men than they were before.
4. **Philip** – He was personally reached by Jesus Himself. Philip was like the disciples' road manager; he had a natural administrative personality. Philip is the kind of guy who was always thinking, and God was trying to stretch Philip's faith.
5. **Bartholomew (also known as Nathanael)** – He went out and was seeking God, even to the point of asking God to make Himself known. Because of his faith, Bartholomew found Christ.
6. **Thomas** – He had a “steady as she goes” type of personality. Thomas was very practical, and on some levels even skeptical. Though we have heard him referred to as “Doubting Thomas,” instead we should recognize that he did not live off of other people's faith.
7. **Matthew** – He turned his back on a lucrative career and great power and prestige to be a follower of Jesus. He considered it a privilege to be called as one of Christ's own, and when Christ called him; he left his tax collector's table and never looked back.
8. **Judas** – He was not always the traitor that he will be remembered as; Satan overcame him gradually. Judas yielded to the devil and that is where the wickedness came into the scene. Satan pinpointed Judas' weakness and, in the end, greed destroyed him.

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RELEVANT REMINDERS

- The disciples are a perfect example of how—despite personalities of doubt, aggression, or even timidity—God can do extraordinary things with ordinary people.
- God doesn't call people because they are great; instead greatness comes as a result from the call of God. In other words, He does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called.
- There are some people setting the world on fire, while others are still looking for a match. It is not important who has the most faith first, but it is how you serve the Lord and live your life that matters.
- It is not about having a perfect voice or being a flawless person, because you will never reach that aspiration. Authenticity: that is what people need to see.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Every single individual is flawed, all fall short, and none of us are qualified in and of ourselves. God can do His work through imperfect people; in fact, it seems He goes out of His way to find imperfect people to do His work. What God is really looking for today is not ability, but availability. Be available to God's call.