

TWELVE ORDINARY MEN- How the Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness and What He Wants to Do With You

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The Introduction to Twelve Ordinary Men

Date: September 7, 2022- Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church-Wednesday Bible Study

Points to Ponder from the Introduction

1. The personality types of the disciples Jesus chose are familiar to us. They are just like us, and they are like people we know.
2. The disciples were approachable.
3. The disciples were real living creatures we can identify with to include their faults, as well as their triumphs.
4. The disciples were perfectly ordinary men in every way. None of them were known for their scholarship, neither were they orators or theologians.
5. They were outsiders as far as the religious establishment of Jesus' day was concerned.
6. They were not outstanding because of any natural talents or intellectual abilities.
7. They were too prone to mistakes, misstatements, wrong attitudes, lapses of faith, and bitter failure, especially Peter, the leader of the group. Jesus even called the disciples slow learners and somewhat spiritually dense-Luke 24:25.
8. The group included a zealot, tax collector, fishermen, and tradesmen.
9. Yet with all their faults and character flaws-as remarkably ordinary as they were, they carried on a ministry after Jesus' ascension that left an indelible impact on the world. Their ministry continues to influence us today.
10. Jesus knew all their faults long before He chose them. He even knew Judas would betray Him.
11. The most outstanding characteristic of the disciples was their ordinariness.

12. The disciples were chosen by Christ and trained for a time that is best measured in months , not years. Some Bible scholars believe it was a little more than 18 months (See page XV in the introduction).

13. Jesus taught the disciples Scriptures and Theology.

14. Jesus disciplined the disciples in the ways of godly living-teaching them and showing them how to pray, how to forgive, and how to serve one another in humility. He gave them moral instruction , spoke to them of things to come and employed them as His instruments to heal the sick, cast out demons and do other miraculous works.

15. When empowered by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the disciples undertook the task to which Jesus had called them.

16. The disciples are living proof that God's strength is made perfect in weakness: I Corinthians 1:27-28 2 Corinthians 2:14 Philippians 4:13.

17. The founding of the church and the spread of the gospel message depended entirely on these ordinary men with their obvious weaknesses. However, from Christ's divine perspective , the ultimate success of the monumental task depended on the Holy Spirit working in the disciples to accomplish God's sovereign will.

18. The mission assigned to the disciples could not be hindered and that is why it was a work for which God alone deserves praise and glory.

19. The disciples are fitting heroes and role models for us , despite their shortcomings.

20. Our prayer should be that the Holy Spirit who taught them transform us the way he transformed them, into precious vessels fit for the Master's use.

Application

What are some "Big Ideas"you gleaned from the points to ponder that challenge your perspective on ministry ?

How does God use man with all his character flaws and faults for His glory and honor ?