



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

# 'The Twelve' Chosen as Israel's New Leaders

Bible Reading: Luke 6:1-16

## SUMMARY

Jesus' ministry in Galilee ignited both awe and outrage. Crowds flocked to His teaching and healing, while Pharisees seethed at His challenge to their Sabbath traditions—opposition that would drive Him to the cross. In this rising conflict, Jesus made a decisive move: from His followers He chose the Twelve naming them apostles. The symbolism struck like a prophetic shockwave. Israel, founded on twelve tribes, was rejecting its Messiah—so Jesus raised up a new leadership. Ordinary men. Untrained men. Men soon to be filled with the Spirit. After Judas fell, the apostles hurried to restore the Twelve, knowing the number itself declared God's renewed people. At Pentecost they erupted, battling Judaism's elite for the hearts and minds of God's people, calling Israel to repentance, and proclaiming the risen Christ. The Twelve's successful witness ignited a movement that swept across the empire. And it all began with Jesus choosing twelve ordinary men.

## I. How Many Disciples did Jesus Have?

### II. Background: Mounting Opposition & Growing Popularity

#### A. Mounting Opposition & Growing Popularity

- "Popularity and conflict form the twin backgrounds for calling the Twelve" –Fred Craddock

#### B. "During this time" of heightened Conflict (Lk. 6:12)

- "At this point, when opposition is forming & confrontation becomes a certainty, Luke places...Jesus' call of the Twelve..." –Eric Franklin

#### C. Climax of Opposition to Jesus (Lk. 6:11)

#### D. The Plot to Destroy (Assassinate) Jesus

### III. Jesus Selects 'the Twelve' from among his Disciples

- ❖ Jesus "called his disciples & chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles." (Luke 6:13)

- ❖ "The Twelve did not choose Jesus...but Jesus chose the Twelve." –Eckhard Schnabel

## A. Jesus' Strategic &amp; Intentional Move

- "The selection...of the twelve apostles highlight Jesus' strategic & intentional approach to establishing His kingdom." –Edward Andrews

**IV. Choosing the Twelve –A Major Turning Point**

## A. Accompanied by Prayer

## B. Shifting Focus –From Many to the Few

## C. "The Twelve" — 25x in NT; 7x in Luke

## D. "The Twelve" –An Historical Entity formed by the Historical Jesus (1 Cor. 15:5)

**V. Why Twelve? Symbolic of Israel's Restored Tribes**

## A. The Tribes of Israel

- "Restoration of God's people, Israel for Luke means the 12 tribes, including the 'lost 10 tribes'." –L. Alexander
- "The twelve apostles clearly correspond to the twelve tribes of Israel." –Thomas Christensen
- "Luke reveals that the precise number twelve as applied to the apostolic circle is essential, & that this circle can only function with the correct number..." –Jacob Jervell
- "The Twelve...are the counter to Jesus' learned opponents." –L. John Topel

## E. 'The Twelve' —Israel's Future Leaders

- "The Twelve whom Jesus chose [are] the core of restored Israel & the people's future leaders." –Jason Moraff

## F. 'The Twelve' replace Judaism's Leaders in Jesus' 'Parable of the Tenants' (Mt. 21:43)

## G. 'The Twelve' equal 'the Apostles' in Luke's Gospel (Lk. 9:1, 10)

## H. Majority of 'the Twelve' do not have Individual Roles in the NT Narrative

- "Seven of the characters play no role; 'the Twelve' function as a composite group" – Darrell Bock

## I. The Uniqueness of 'the Twelve' versus Later 'Apostles'

## J. Jesus' Other Disciples –The 'Seventy-Two' (Lk. 10:1, 17)

**VI. Twelve Thrones for the Twelve Apostles**

## A. "You'll sit on [12] thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel" (Lk. 22:30; Mt. 19:28)

- "Jesus & his followers...considered the number 'twelve' as significant... He anticipated the Twelve standing in judgment over the twelve tribes of Israel in the coming kingdom (Lk. 22:30)." –Darrell Bock

## B. The Twelve's Role "includes the exercise of leadership authority." –Eckhart Schnabel

- The Twelve's "significance [is] constituting the nucleus of a restored Israel, suggesting that Jesus' announcement...includes the exercise of leadership authority." –Eckhart Schnabel

## C. Jesus' Promises to the Twelve are Inaugurated in Acts

- "Pentecost...[is] not so much the 'birthday of the church' as the beginning of the restoration of [Israel. Through] Peter's preaching the Twelve...commence their task of reconstituting the renewed Israel." — Richard Bauckham

- "Jesus' statements find realization within...the first part of Acts [where] the [Twelve] apostles 'rule over Israel' among the [Jewish] people restored through the Spirit & serve...in the name of the risen Lord." — Luke Timothy Johnson

**VII. Acts 1: 'The Twelve' Reconstituted; Matthias replacing Judas 'the dropout'**

## A. The 1st Ten Years of the Jesus-Community in Acts

## B. The Apostles' Dilemma

- "The apostles...dilemma...They have lost one of their members, Judas...they have been reduced to a group of 'Eleven'...The 12 have lost their status as representatives of the 12 tribes of Israel." –Jenny

Read  Heimerdinger

## C. The Necessity of Reconstitution

- "We know & hear nothing more of either candidate [Matthias, Joseph Barsabbas. But,] Luke also says nothing more of the majority of those [the 'Eleven'] listed in Acts 1:13." –James Dunn

- Adding "Matthias...returns the number to twelve & constitutes a claim...that the twelve constitute...the new leadership over Israel as God's people." –Joshua Jipp

- "The Twelve [were] the unifying & coordinating leadership of the new [Jesus-]community." –James Dunn

## D. The (reconstituted) 'Twelve' become Israel's New Leaders

- "The Twelve...now become the new leaders of Israel" –Joshua Jipp

- "The Twelve...represent Israel's new leaders, [The] former leaders...disqualified themselves by rejecting Jesus ...The apostles bear witness to the resurrection...their chief responsibility as Israel's new rulers." —

Craig Evans

- “The Twelve have in reality become the effective leaders of...the populace ...[So, there's] a division... Many of the ordinary people who hear Peter's words believe...It is only the leaders who are 'upset'...” –Luke T. Johnson

E. Israel's Institutional Leaders vs. the People — Division

- “The 'people' (laos) in Luke are almost uniformly supportive of Jesus; it is their leaders who fail to recognize that 'the kingdom of God has come...'” –Loveday Alexander

- “Israel as a people are not rejected along with her leaders. The [Jewish] leaders...have relinquished any right to rule over the people, & the Twelve have now become the new leaders of Israel.” –Jacob Jervell

F. “The Mission of the Twelve...an Unqualified Success Story” –M. Goheen

- “The mission of the Twelve [to Jews as] 'an unqualified success story' in gathering Israel.” –Michael Goheen

G. In Acts: Jewish Rejection & Acceptance; Conversion & Opposition