

Date : 29 June 2025
Theme : Gospel of Mark
Topic : Jesus forming His 12
Passage : Mark 3:13-19
Key Verse : *“He appointed twelve that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach.” Mark 3:14*

Introduction

In Mark 1 & 2, the Lord kept calling people to follow Him. Multitudes had followed.
In Mark 3, He selects and appoints His Twelve. Jesus had called many but selected only 12.
‘With Him’ is a discipling principle He practiced.

Mark is showing us the pattern we are to follow. As we follow Jesus, we can form our own 12 disciples to start the chain of spiritual generations. The Lord’s goal was to produce people who could be sent out to preach the gospel. It was these 12 that changed the world.

1. The call to become disciple makers

- What does ‘disciple’ mean?
Vine’s Expository Dictionary defines ‘disciple’ as “not only a pupil but an adherent; hence they are imitators of their teacher.” So, disciples of Jesus learn from Him and emulate His way of life.
 - *Mark 3:14* specifically refers to appointment of the ‘Twelve’ in whose lives the Lord would spend time with in order to make them into disciples and disciple makers. This is also the third core value of our church.
- a) How is appointing any different from calls to follow?
- Call vs. Appointment
 - We are to engage in calling everyone to follow Jesus (*Mark 1:16-20*), but like Jesus, we select a smaller group of 12 to be “with Him” (*Mark 3:14*). It’s a personal invitation.
 - The appointment of the Twelve in *Mark 3:14* is a specific invitation to become part of His team. The Lord is showing us what we should do to follow His example and prioritise on His way of disciple making.
- b) Appointing the Disciples

The purpose of Jesus appointing the ‘Twelve’ was twofold:

- Practicing the ***“be with him”*** principle of disciple making (*vs14*)
What does this mean? This simply means the disciples make themselves available to learn from Him.
His example - This involves investing time in our disciples by:
 - Building strong relationships.
 - Mentoring: Guiding them through hands-on experiences, teaching, and coaching.
 - Modelling: Demonstrating Christ-like character, values, and behaviour.
 - Building habits for spiritual growth, prayer, and mastering His word.
 - Practical training: Learning and applying skills in witnessing and reproducing disciples.

- To **"send them out" to preach**
- In His discipleship training, they would learn:
To **Preach** and to have authority to **Heal** and **Drive out demons** (deliverance) (Mark 3:10,14-15),
- Fan out to all nations.

2. The Selection of His 12 disciples

a) How Jesus Chose His Twelve

- He prayed all night
"One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God." (Luke 6:12)
He must have prayed for wisdom, about who to select out of the many who had believed when He went about teaching.
- The Lord took time in seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom in decision-making. He was operating as a Son of Man, not tapping into His super power for the success of His ministry. He relied on the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus **"wanted"** them (vs13)
"Jesus went (climbed) up on a mountainside and called (invited) to him those He wanted..." (vs13)
- He wanted... – An important principle here: We must 'want' to form our 12.
- Jesus intentionally looked for the Twelve, demonstrating the importance of deliberately seeking those who will join Him on the journey of faith.
- They must be available
Those He called "came to him" (vs13), indicating their AVAILABILITY and willingness to follow Him. These 12 must be willing to be "with Him". To be available, both He and His 12 must set "with Him" time a priority.

b) Who did Jesus call to be His Twelve? (vs 16-18)

- Jesus selected 'ordinary' men
Take the examples of John, Peter, and Matthew to illustrate this:
- ❖ John: As a fisherman, John was an ordinary working-class individual. His bold personality, nicknamed '*Son of Thunder*', could be seen as a flaw, but it also shows that Jesus can use imperfect people like us.
- ❖ Peter: As a fisherman, Peter was ordinary (only fishing for a living). His impulsiveness and strong faith are relatable, and his later leadership role shows that ordinary people can be equipped to become key leaders.
- ❖ Matthew: As a tax collector, Matthew was very unpopular due to the nature of his job, but Jesus saw potential in him. This shows that God can use anyone, regardless of their background or occupation.

3. What can we learn from Jesus' selection of the Twelve?

By following Jesus' example, we can intentionally choose and train our own 'twelve' to carry out God's mission and build His Kingdom.

a) Key Takeaways

- We must 'want' our twelve
 - Make a commitment to be available and to be with our own mentors to learn how.
 - Have a clear desire to select and invest in our 'twelve' for disciple-making.
- Pray
 - Seek God's guidance and wisdom in decision-making, just like Jesus did.
 - Be intentional in selecting our 'twelve' and start the chain of spiritual generations.
 - Start with one.

b) The selection process reveals 3 Key Principles

- Availability:
 - Availability is a precondition for ministry.
 - The called-out ones must commit to be available and demonstrate willingness to follow Jesus and be shaped by His teachings.
- Believe that 'ordinary' people can be empowered

God uses 'ordinary' people to achieve extraordinary things. Jesus chose ordinary people with diverse backgrounds, flaws, and imperfections, and transformed them through time with Him.

 - Potential over Credentials: What matters is not our background or credentials, but the willingness to follow Jesus example.
 - Transformation happens over time as we follow Jesus' example.
- To be '*sent out*': The goal to set

For each disciple to reach out and make disciples of their own, thereby continuing the 'chain of spiritual generations'.

 - That Jesus appointed them to be '*sent out*' was displayed after His ascension, when they fanned out and started the early church.
 - An example of the 'chain of spiritual generations' starting with John: Jesus disciples John: John disciples Polycarp (a early Christian bishop): Polycarp disciples Irenaeus, all great leaders of faith.

Application

1. Why should you seek your 12 disciples?
2. How do you intend to look for them?