



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
Special Message: 12 Ordinary Men
From Sermon 5.21.23

Read *John 15:14-17*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Before moving on in John's Gospel, we take this needed break to see the 6 remaining Apostles John doesn't cover. Their calling and story is amazing. They were ordinary men changed and used by God. They should encourage and motivate us in our walk and ministry.

1. Which Apostles did John's Gospel already introduce and what did we learn about them?

- Andrew: Was first a disciple of John the Baptist. Went immediately and told his brother about Jesus.
- Peter: Will become the Leader. Family fishing business. Brother of Andrew. Jesus changed his name.
- James: Part of Peter's family's fishing business. Father was Zebedee. Will be the first to die.
- John: the author of this Gospel, three small epistles, & Revelation. Also one of the inner circle of leaders. Will live the longest. He and his brother, James, are nicknamed the "sons of thunder".
- Philip: Jesus sought him out and called him. Was from the same town as the others. Told Nathanael.
- Nathanael (Bartholomew): was first skeptical about Jesus being from Nazareth. Jesus revealed His divine knowledge to Nathanael and convinced him about His authenticity.

2. Name the remaining Apostles:

- Thomas
- Matthew (also called Levi)
- Judas (not Iscariot) Labbaeus Thaddaeus
- James (the lesser)
- Simon (the Zealot)
- Judas Iscariot

3. How many religious leaders, scribes, and teachers did Jesus call to be Apostles? In the original 12, none.

3a. Later, He will radically transform, call, and use an infamous Pharisee. Who is he? Saul of Tarsus

4. Read *1 Corinthians 1:26-27*. What is amazing about the men Jesus called? They were ordinary men, transformed by an extraordinary Savior. What should that teach us? God will use even us. He doesn't need strong, powerful, affluent, scholars. He wants faithful, Spirit-filled saints to reach the world and be the Church. See also Acts 4:13

5. What's amazing about the eclectic make-up of these 12? In societal life, several would never have associated with one another. Simon the Zealot would have likely tried to take Matthew out!

6. Every one of the 12 [Paul, here, substituted for Judas Iscariot] will pay for their faith with their life. What makes this so powerful and testimonial? At Jesus' arrest, they all ran off. On the morning of the resurrection, none of them were waiting outside the tomb. They were behind locked doors and afraid. Following the resurrection and their time with a glorified Jesus, every single one of the was willing to die (sometimes terrible deaths) for the Name of their Savior. No one recanted.