

## Mark 3:7-19 “Jesus Picks His Team”

If public relations experts were to critique the ministry of Jesus –

A) They would have pointed out at least five mistakes He made in picking His team.

1.) He didn't go to Upper-Class members of Jewish society.

That would have been the logical starting point because they had *influence, power & money*.

2.) He Didn't try to talk people into supporting Messiahship.

There was No sales pitch/ He routinely asked people not to promote Him.

3.) He alienated *the religious leadership*.

Was bad enough He didn't pick any of the top echelon, but it seems He went out of His way to confront them.

4.) He refused to compromise.

So often in the business/political world it's a matter of give and take in leadership/Not Jesus

5.) The guys He did pick to be His team and PR guys were common men and some were even the low lives of society.

They had little education & very little spiritual perception.

They had no formal training for the ministry

A) His initial **FRONT MAN** John the B.

B) He was a raving longhaired guy who was inappropriately dressed for the ministry /

1) He ate weird food, shouted "*repent*" at people and made them get dunked in a muddy river---

C) Today we are going to look at what at first glance might seem like an insignificant set of verses.

1) Easy to read over as just part of the narrative.

D) But the thing that we need to consider is that much of Jesus' **3 year ministry** was spent in training these 12 men –

E) 11 of them would carry on the ministry after Jesus was gone.

Read:

**7 But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a great multitude from Galilee followed Him, and from Judea 8 and Jerusalem and Idumea and beyond the Jordan; and those from Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they heard how many things He was doing, came to Him.**

Scholars estimate at this time crowds of 50K  
COMING FROM ALL OVER THE REGION.

**Mark 3:9-12**

**9 So He told His disciples that a small boat should be kept ready for Him because of the multitude, lest they should crush Him.**

**OFTEN USE A BOAT A PULPIT – HIS VOICE REFLECTING OFF THE WATER OF THE LAKE NATURAL ACCOUSTICS**

**10 For He healed many, so that as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him. 11 And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "You are the Son of God." 12 But He sternly warned them that they should not make Him known.**

**Imagine this: In our day –we tell pp if you have the flu – contagious, don't come to work.**

**A)Don't send your kids to school or Sunday school.**

**B)Here all the people sick and afflicted – coming and pressing into Him to touch Him.**

**C)Germ-phobics NIGHT MARE.**

**So when the crowds were growing and pressing in on Him – Jesus does something very interesting.**

**A)He withdraws and is going to pick out from the crowd – 12 that are going to help Him minister to the crowds.**

**B)Ministry teams are important. Read v. 13-19**

**13 And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. 14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, 15 and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: 16 Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; 17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"; 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite; 19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house.**

**As we look at the choosing of this team there are 5 points I want us to consider.**

**#1 His Method of selection.**

**#2 The Uniqueness of their relationship.**

**#3 The Exactness of their calling.**

**#4 The Authority they were given.**

**#5 The Diversity of this team.**

**#1 His Method of selection. 13 And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted.**

**Luke in his gospel adds this insight: Luke 6:12-13  
12 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:**

Some have joked that He was praying for a different group - *Father are you sure these are the ones*

A)The Story is told of when Jesus ascended up to Heaven after the Rez. - He was speaking to the angel Gab. who said to Him

*Master That was an awesome thing you did down there - incredible display of Love . But it seems like the world doesn't understand what you did.*

Jesus replied *They don't - Only a few - Gab said How are you going to reach them - how will they find out - what is Your plan.*

Jesus responded - *I have given those 12 guys that I spent those 3 yrs w/ the task of spreading the goodnews of the salvation I offer & what I did - that is the plan –*

**GAB RESPONDED - THOSE GUYS ?  
REALLY ?IS THERE A PLAN B**

**B)I personally don't think Jesus was debating with the Father over the choices –**

1)He knew what these men would become.

C)But I do think it is worth noting - & a great lesson for us - that before making **a major decision** like this that Jesus spent a night in Prayer

**D)Here He was God in the flesh - and yet He felt the need to correspond w/ His Father - over this great decision**

E)**If that is what Jesus did** – how much more do we need to do that too!

1)How many times do I make decisions w/ out even Checking in - Just do it - go here & there.

**#1 His Method of selection.- He bathed the decision in Prayer.**

Proverbs 3:5-6

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.”**

Praying and waiting for direction is the way that we do that!

**#2 The Uniqueness of their relationship: Luke 6:13  
He called them to Himself.**

A)Here in Mark's gospel they are called to be with Him.

B)This is something that is so easy for us to forget

C)We can get caught up in church talking about **being on Mission for God.**

1)We can get caught in doing –

**D)But first and foremost – Jesus calls us to Himself**

1)He calls us to relationship.

E)Easy thing to forget!

John 17:3

**3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

Know= Ginosko = know intimately as in a relationship.

**Eternal life starts with Knowing Jesus –**

A)Knowing not just about Him – Knowing Him

B)Came Cross – so we could know God.

C)Some of you here today – Problem – Know about Jesus – don't know Jesus

1)Head knowledge – **NOT HEART KNOWLEDGE**

But even after you have walked with the Lord for a while it is easy to lose sight of the fact that the most important aspect of being a Christian is

**RELATIONSHIP**

**My Oregon days: Left here – over saw too major ministries – High School and College**

A)High School – 150 kids – College -80

**B)As a Church we were doing 2 overseas missions trips per year.**

C)Several retreats –

**D)My life was packed** – about every 3 months – planning something major.

Little shift happened in my heart that I didn't realize  
My Joy and Satisfaction

**Jesus wants Intimacy with us!**

A)Not a Sunday thing – Sunday Wed – or when I get in a Jam

B)Your life – every decision – every relationship revolving around your relationship with Him!

C)So #2 The Uniqueness of their relationship- **He called them to Himself.**

1)**YOU TODAY** – don't know Him

2)You today – do but lost sight of intimacy.

**#3 The Exactness of their calling: V.14 He might send them out to preach,**

A)I point this out because the message of the gospel the goodnews of salvation through Christ was central to this mission.

B)Everything else was secondary: We can get focused on social work – meeting various needs

C)But the primary work of the Church is to preach the gospel.

Mark 16:15-16 **“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”**

D)Methods can change: We can do a lot of things as a Church and as Christians

1)Preaching and teaching of God’s word will always BE CENTRAL.

#4 The Authority they were given: 14-15

**“He might send them out to preach, 15 and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:”**

A)Power is *exousia* = Authority. A Royal right and privilege.

B)This was a special power given to these guys at this particular time to help deal with the demand at the time.

C)It was actually an AUTHORITY over sickness and demons.

D)No one has this type of authority today.

E)Later in the book of Acts – Wait for the HS – you shall receive Power – Dunamis – Strength, Boldness

1))But at this particular time they were actually given AUTHORITY

#5 The Diversity of this team:

A)Simon: nicknamed Peter = Rock or Rocky – Yo Adrian

B)Why did Jesus change his name? He saw what Peter would become.

C)Peter, he is presumptuous, bold, outspoken.

Ups and Downs:

A)Divine revelation – You are the Christ

B)**Stern Rebuke**: get behind me Satan.

C)Faith – Walk on water –

1)Momentary – Sank

D)Cocky – **Although all these guys forsake You** – not me – count on Rocky - Deny 3 times

E)His three years with Jesus would be filled with many ups and downs

1)JUST LIKE US!

After Pentecost – HS fell – Peter has a confidence that is from the Lord.

A)Preaches – you killed the Messiah – 3,000 saved

B)He would become a Rock

**C) Peter would spend the last 9 months of his life in a maritime prison in Rome.**

1) In a Dungeon below a Dungeon- where there was no light.

**D) He was there standing knee deep in Human waste**

1) Chained to a pole, where most men died from just the fumes

**E) He was there for 9 months with little food or sleep**

1) tradition says he led 49 Roman guards to Christ during that 9 month stretch.

**They took him out to Crucify him – sick and frail.**

A) They first crucified his wife in front of him – All he said to her was **“remember though the Lord oh Woman.”** Not much time for Counsel

B) When they went to crucify him – he said – I am not worthy to be crucified like my Lord

1) **CRUCIFY HIM UPSIDE DOWN.**

C) He was indeed a Rock

**James and John- fellow fisher men and the Sons of Zebedee.**

A) John was affectionately known as the apostle of Love for his writings

B) But Jesus nick named these two the sons of thunder

**C) Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem and wanted to take the short cut through Samaria**

1) Sent James and John ahead to get a Room at the Ramada inn of Samaria

D) The Samaritans refused him – because they knew he was only passing through on his way to Jerusalem

**James and John came back and said- They wouldn't give us a Room – Jesus – do you want us to call down fire from heaven? – Consume them**

A) Send a message – Ppp see the Pile of ash that used to be Samaria –

B) When Jesus wants to rent a room – you better let Him.

C) Jesus has to say: **Guys that is really not our message** 😊

1) You don't know what spirit you are of – but that is definitely not Me!

D) Somewhere after – Jesus gives them the nickname sons of thunder

**E) Later in the book of Acts – it would be John who would go with Peter to the city of Samaria**

1) Bringing the teaching of the Baptism of the HS **REVIVAL WOULD BREAK OUT –**

2) Probably thinking – Sure glad Jesus didn't let us destroy this city



### **Ordinary guys –**

A) Gospel road – blanket –

B) **Laughed told jokes**

1) Sat around the camp fire at night

C) Might have had burping contest

D) **Traveled together** – climbed hills

E) One night around the fire – recalling that story –  
**Teasing James and John**

1) Jesus gives them the nickname – Sons of thunder

### **When John was an old man:**

A) Historians said Bronto Phonus – Thunder Voice

B) James was the first Martyr – Beheaded

1) John was the Disciple who wouldn't die

C) Banished to Patmos – old man wrote Revelation

### **Andrew the brother of Peter – more of behind the scenes guy – quiet faith**

A) Always bringing others to Jesus

B) First Nathanael – the boy with the bread and the fish.

1) John 12 the greeks

C) Andrew was crucified

### **PHILLIP: Timid Galilean.**

A) Didn't approach Jesus like Andrew & John- He waited until Jesus invited him to join.

B) Tradition says he was the one who asked Jesus if he might go 1st and bury his father.

1) Phillip has been called a Calculating Pessimist

### **C) At the feeding of the 5,000..... Jesus asked Philip "Where will we get enough food?".....**

1) Phillip quickly made a count & figured how much each portion would cost. He answered: "We don't have enough \$\$"

D) His knowledge got in the way!

E) He was shot full of Arrows

### **BARTHOLOMEW: (NATHANAEL)**

A) This is the guy who was 1st to doubt Jesus was Messiah.

JOHN 1:45-51 *Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*

B) Carried the gospel to India and was Crucified upside down in Albania

### **MATTHEW ALSO CALLED (LEVI)**

A) Tax Collector for the Roman Govt. That put him on the "most hated list" in Israel Ahead of robbers, murderers. TRAITOR

B) Matthew was calculating – given to details

C) Skinned alive in Iran

### **SIMON THE ZEALOT - A Political Religious party of fanatical nationalists**

A) Josephus the Jewish historian says they were called the Dagger men

B) Concealed Daggers – walk up to a Roman in a crowd – stab them and then vanish in the crowd

C) Simon would hate a guy like Matthew

1) Like Obama and Bill Reilly being on the same team

### **THOMAS: "DOUBTING THOMAS".**

A) The pessimist... He only saw the dark side of things: Negative

B) When Jesus said they were going to Judea, - it was Thomas who reminded Jesus - *They want to Kill you down there .*

1) he felt sure they'd never get out alive

C) John 11:16 Then Thomas, which is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, *Let us also go, that we may die with Him.*

D) He was Hesitant to believe Jesus rose from the dead

1) "Unless I touch the holes in His hands and side

### **Here is the thing:**

A) It worked – this group of guys united together turned the world upside down.

B) This group of **ordinary men** were used by God to do **the extraordinary**

1) Diverse: Some bold and loud/ others timid & quiet

C) Some aggressive – others passive

D) Into details – others more spontaneous

### **Love that about our leadership team – All of the above – sometimes heated discussions**

A) We pray – wait – we yield ourselves to Jesus

B) That is the beauty of the body of Christ.

C) When the body of Christ is **functioning rightly, it is like a Symphony**

1) All those instruments – under the direction of one conductor making beautiful music



**Jesus before he died – gave this Charge to His disciples. John 13:33-35**

**“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

**The Church becomes powerful when we lay aside our own personal preferences and agendas.**

**A) We band together for the glory of God and the plan and mission of God. – Gospel – souls**

**B) Today – celebrate communion – thinking about several things:**

**#1 You have been uniquely chosen by Jesus to be on His team.**

**#2 Chosen first for intimacy {Know Him – not just about Him.**

**#3 Chosen with a Purpose: Bigger vision than your plan – your desires – His kingdom**

**#4 Chosen to be a part of a body – You have a part to play – not sitting in a pew**

**Listen:**

**A) Commit your heart – yielded**

**B) Jesus is still looking today for ordinary groups of diverse individuals who will yield themselves to Him**

**Gather – Young pp – led by Pastor Jason – new service – aimed at reaching pp for the gospel**

**They need your help –**

**One area lacking – Children’s Ministry**

**Need about 20 more pp**

**Join the symphony -**