

## Luke 6: Twelve Common Men, Part 1

- ↳ **Luke 6:12-13**, All were no-names, or if they had a name, like Matthew, it wasn't for anything good. Jesus chose very common men: 4 fishermen, 1 tax-collector, 1 political activist, 1 money grubber who turned into a traitor.
  - ↳ **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:20**, These guys were nobodies chosen to nullify the so-called somebodies. Typically, we don't pay much attention to these guys or know much about them, and that is a mistake. They are among the most important men who have ever lived.
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### 1. "He named them apostles"

- ✓ There were many disciples. You and I are called disciples and have been commissioned to make disciples, but the apostles were a unique group. Though many have done similar work and service, no one is like these guys; they were uniquely sent by Jesus.
  - ✓ **Ephesians 2:20**, They are the foundation of the church. Every time you open the New Testament you are reading something they either wrote or a description of what they did. The Holy Spirit's inspiration of them is the source of all of our doctrine; it all came through these common men.
  - ✓ In spite of their limitations and everything that they were not, God used them. As we will see, it's because they recognized that they were nothing and surrendered themselves to God, that His power was perfected in their weakness.
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### 2. Some general observations about the lists of the apostles.

- ✓ There are 4 lists of apostles in 3 of the gospels and Acts. It's the same people in all the lists, but the names are in different arrangements. The first name in all the lists is always Peter; he's the leader.
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### 3. Simon Peter, Jesus' chosen leader.

- ✓ Boy, did the Lord disdain self-righteous people! Nothing about Peter is self-righteous. Peter is about as unworthy and unqualified to be an apostle as anyone, much less lead them. If God can't use the unworthy and unqualified, He can't use anybody because that's all He has to choose from.
  - ✓ Peter's name is the most mentioned in the gospels beside Jesus'. Nobody speaks as much as he, neither is anyone spoken to more by Jesus than Peter.
  - ✓ No disciple ever so boldly confessed the lordship of Jesus as Peter did, and no one ever so denied Him so boldly either. No one so praised and blessed as Peter and no one else was called Satan but Peter. Raw makings of a leader, but they were very raw.
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**4. Peter was greatly used.**

- ✓ **Matthew 16:15-19**, Jesus named him Peter = rock, because that is what he would become. That's an incredible statement given who Peter had been thus far: common, plain fisherman, no status, no education, no influence, no experience, given to unpredictability.
  - ✓ But he lived up to his name and accomplished what Jesus said he would. It was Peter who became the leader and primary spokesperson of the early church in the first 12 chapters of Acts. If we look at his accomplishments in Acts, we will see that he truly barred the gates of Hell and opened the gates of Heaven.
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**5. He became just the leader Jesus said he would be, but before he could do that, he had to learn to not trust himself.**

- ✓ Peter didn't bring a lot to the table, but his self-confidence was his biggest obstacle. The Lord needed a man who could be led, who had no confidence in himself, and only trusted the Lord's leadership. To get self-confident Peter to that point, he had to be broken, his self-confidence had to be crushed.
- ✓ Here's the lesson: No person is ultimately useful to the Lord until he has absolutely no trust in himself. Like Peter, we've got to learn to not trust ourselves, our ideas, and lean hard on the Lord and His Word.

**The Lord doesn't need our education, experience, influence, or confidence; He needs us to trust only Him and His plan and to follow it.**

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