

1.

NOT
IN
~~ORDER~~
OF
THE
C.A.

First, there was Mathew...a hated tax collector. Probably not one of the eleven other disciples wanted him around at all. He had been openly corrupt in collecting Roman taxes. But, he left this comfortable, profitable position to follow Jesus because he valued the Kingdom of God which Jesus represented more than he did the money of the Roman Empire.

Zealots A RADICAL GROUP OF ROMAN HATERS

Simon, the Zealot was eager to slay any Roman or Roman sympathizer on command. He was, what we might term in modern day language - a "hit man". He was a rebel who looked upon tax collectors and the taxation they represented as slavery. You can imagine how well he and Mathew first got along.

3+4 *Yet* Jesus called James and John "brothers of thunder". These two men were so greatly prejudiced against Samaritans that they thought that God should send down fire and destroy them all. These two brothers were big men, strong, brave, used to hard living as fishermen. It would be John who would stay at the foot of the cross to comfort Jesus' mother, Mary, during the Crucifixion. James was wiser of the two. He developed a compassion - and would later be the first disciple to ~~suffer martyrdom~~ *DIE A MARTYR*.

5 Then there was Simon (also named Peter)...His temperment easily betrayed ~~his~~ his best insights. ~~Three~~ Three times on the night of Jesus' arrest he would deny ever knowing Jesus. He had heard Jesus teach of love, care and concern for fellowmen, but it would be hard for him to develop love of fellowman as a way of life. After Jesus' death Simon-Peter would become one of the greatest teachers of Jesus' ways.

6 ~~Peter's~~ Peter's brother, Andrew, introduced Peter to Jesus. And, even though Andrew was one of Jesus' first real friends, he was not among the three disciples...Peter, James and John...whom Jesus would call to be close to him in moments of crisis. Like his brother, he too was a fisherman.

- 7 Thomas has been generally known as "the doubter".
Yet he was a true and loyal friend. Toward the close of Jesus' life at Bethany, when some of the ~~disciples~~ disciples protested Jesus' plan to press on to Jerusalem, it was Thomas who said..." Let us all go along with the Teacher, so that we may die with him." Some scholars wonder if Thomas indeed was the most discerning of all twelve disciples.
- 8 Philip's dominant spiritual attribute was power.
Because he knew the Greek language so well, he was ~~often~~ often called "the Greek"...but he was from the city of Andrew and Peter, ~~and~~ he lived in Galilee, as they did.
- 9 Jude, or Thaddeaus was sometimes called Judas...
but he is not to be confused with Judas Iscariot. Thaddeaus was a brother of James the ~~Less~~ Less, and is believed to have been of the family of Jesus.
- 10 James the Less was called ~~James~~ that because he was younger than James the brother of John. It is believed that he ~~was~~ could have been a cousin of Jesus. In later years he became the first Bishop of the church in Jerusalem.
- 11 Bethsaiomew - also called Nathanael had imagination. He was among the first six men chosen by Jesus to be a Disciple. Jesus recognized him as a man of great foresight and vision. However, when Philip found Natbaneal resting under a fig tree and told him that he had found the Messiah in Nazareth, his reply was..." Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
- 12 And, finally we come to Judas Iscariot...the betrayer. ~~He was among the first to be chosen as a Disciple.~~
Judas ~~was~~ always hoped that Jesus would bring a physical, materialistic, earthly kingdom that would overthrow the Roman rule. It was Judas who usually carried the money and payed the expenses as the Disciples traveled from place to place. Jesus trusted Judas to live up to his spiritual self. Confident that Jesus would save himself upon the cross, Judas watched in horror as he died and then went off and killed himself.

(Roman and)

It's quite possible that the Jewish authorities did not fully realize ~~or comprehend~~ the consequences of Jesus attaching himself to the ~~These men~~ twelve Disciples. (But the impact of ~~the~~ ~~ATTACHING THEMSELVES~~ potentiality of this non-descript band of "laymen" ~~to Jesus teaching and following this itinerant preacher.~~ was revealed when Jesus decided upon an all-out religious campaign in the villages of Gallilee.

~~This~~ campaign revealed, for the first time, the true missionary activity and the ~~organized~~ form in which it progressed. It showed the organizational power of these twelve inspired men along with their beloved Teacher, Jesus.

By the time the Gospels were written the details of Jesus' instructions to the Disciples would be carefully noted and remembered.

Luke gives us three illustrations of the way in which Jesus selected and dealt with the men to whom his message was making its appeal. Offering them an attractive, easy deal, or a more comfortable, smoother life style was never in his thoughts. He laid it on the line and told it as is was.

To the ~~man~~ effervescing enthusiast he suggested that he had better count the cost of following a then ~~nameless~~ nameless wanderer named Jesus.

The man who wanted to wait until his father died was told that the Heavenly Father's business required haste right then. He was told that there would be enough men with dead souls to bury his father when he died.

said

Another man ~~that~~ ~~before~~ ~~joining~~ Jesus and his group he wanted to go home and say goodbye to his family. Jesus remembered, all too well how his own relatives and home folks tried to divert him from his God-centered work and purpose.

attach himself
to Jesus

attach
themselves
to Jesus

SOME OF

the Risen

Mark tells us of the ~~rich~~ man who came running up to Jesus, ~~out of breath~~, to ask ~~in a gasping voice~~ how he might have eternal life. Jesus was attracted to this strong, earnest man. But, again, with his supreme ability to read people he imposed upon him the condition of parting with his wealth. In a flash the man realized what a tremendous sacrifice he would have to make. ~~and he turned and walked sadly away.~~

(and John)

The chapters of Mathew, Mark and ~~Luke~~ tell of the deep, dismal valleys and the high, exilirating mountain top experiences of Jesus and the twelve Disciples. Jesus teaching and healing. The disciples watching and learning and strengthening their faith.

Then, almost overnight, Jesus was taken from them. Stunned, they went into hiding, then after the shock and mourning...~~the~~ glorious realization that Jesus was indeed raised from the dead and ~~he~~ would dwell among them forever in a different form...they reorganized. They filled in the twelfth place with Mathias...and in the ~~chapter~~ of Acts we see them rejoicing as they are filled with the Holy Spirit. We see them proclaiming that Jesus lives. They speak boldly - with authority - in every language so that all can understand.

Then came the

So, they moved out, converting hundreds, then thousands to Christianity and proclaiming the Gospel of the Risen Lord. They were jailed and released - only to continue their teaching and healing mission. They became ill. Some died in far away, strange places - far from home, family ~~and~~ friends....still proclaiming the glorious gospel that Jesus died for our sins...rose from the dead...and that His Holy Spirit dwells in our souls forever.

And, that brings the message of Jesus teachings to us. What are we, as Christian laymen doing to further proclaim Jesus' glorious gospel? - *the Good News*

True, we all can't be ministers and preachers. Few of us have felt this strong call.

LAYPERSONS

But, we are Christian laymen with varying degrees of talent and education...as were the Disciples. As such we are in a much more advantageous position to creatively further God's Kingdom.

Today, as probably at no other time in the history of civilization, there is a need for the type of ~~man~~ ^{PEOPLE} Jesus sought. Few of us could measure up to their zeal...their fervor...their faith.

~~And~~ ^{BUT} those who know us are watching us. They know that we are churchmen. They know that we are Christians. They know that we are Methodists. They know that we hold positions of influence, authority and responsibility in the church and in the community.

...and you can be sure, ~~gentlemen~~, they are watching us...our children
our relatives
our wives and husbands
our friends
our business associates
our acquaintances

...all those who come in contact with us are watching us...and by our words and by our deeds we are judged. And, our words and deeds have influence over those who watch and listen.

Now, in the ~~the~~ silence of this ~~room~~...in the deep recesses of your soul, bow your head. Ponder your words ~~of yesterday~~...your actions. Think on them in silence as we quietly meditate together.

(60 sec.)

PRAYER... Our Father, please help us to resolve that we will - by our actions and words be a true, living examples of Christ's teachings...to have a loving concern for each other...and to influence others by our own Christian words and deeds to do likewise. In Jesus name...AMEN.

Don't
hesitate - yes
you can
I don't preach
walking
sermon

Members of
Trinity
Unitarian

Watch as our
shadows fall on
the world

Now
Take this
as personally
as you possibly
can

~~Justly~~

2 weeks
from today
called upon
to support
church

My Christian brothers & sisters

hope for
the future

(SANCTUARY)

Take your thoughts, your resolves,
your determination to work for His
Kingdom & plant
them in your
heart as we
work together
for this church -
God's church.
And with God's
help + the Holy
Spirit working in us
we can do it.

L.M.Y. PEOPLE

But, we are Christian ~~men~~ with varying degrees of talent and education...as were the Disciples. As such we are in a much more advantageous position to creatively further God's Kingdom.

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~~But~~ ^(BUT) those who know us ^(CHURCH PEOPLE) are watching us. They know that we are churchmen. They know that we are Christians. They know that we are Methodists. They know that we hold positions of influence, authority and responsibility in the church and in the community.

Now
Take this
as personally
as you possibly
can

...and you can be sure, ^{my Christian friends} gentlemen, they are watching us...our children
our relatives
our wives and husbands
our friends
our business associates
our acquaintances

hope you
take this
very personally

...all those who come in contact with us are watching us...and by our words and by our deeds we are judged. And, our words and deeds have influence over those who watch and listen.

Prayer
from today
called upon
to support
church

Now, in the ~~the~~ silence of this ~~room~~...in the deep recesses of your soul, bow your head. Ponder your words ~~of your~~...your actions. Think on them in silence as we quietly meditate together.

(60 sec.) take hands on the side

PRAYER... Our Father, please help us to resolve that we will - by our actions and words be a true, living examples of Christ's teachings...to have a loving concern for each other...and to influence others by our own Christian words and deeds to do likewise. In Jesus name...AMEN.

Becky

Here's where
the background
music
should
start
and
continue
until I
finish this
prayer

LPM PEOPLE

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Now
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no personally
no you possibly
each

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our friends
our business associates
our acquaintances

hope you
take this
very personally

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12 weeks
from today
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to support
church

Now, in the ~~the~~ silence of this ~~room~~...in the deep recesses of your soul, bow your head. Ponder your words ~~of yesterday~~...your actions. Think on them in silence as we quietly meditate together.

SANCTUARY

(60 sec.) take hands of those on each side

PRAYER... Our Father, please help us to resolve that we will - by our actions and words be a true, living examples of Christ's teachings...to have a loving concern for each other...and to influence others by our own Christian words and deeds to do likewise. In Jesus name...AMEN.

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