

“Choosing the Twelve”

Read Mark 3:13-19

¹³And Jesus went up, on a mountain. And afterward, he summoned those whom He Himself wanted ¹⁴and He chose twelve, so that they would be with Him, and that He would send them out to preach, ¹⁵and have authority to cast out demons.

¹⁶And He appointed the twelve:

Simon to whom He gave the name Peter,

¹⁷and James the son of Zebedee and John his brother,

to whom He gave the name Boanerges which means “Sons of Thunder”,

¹⁸and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew,

and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot;

¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.

Study Questions

- 1) Read Exodus 28:30. Discuss the Urim and Thummim - which means “lights and perfections” - and what they were used for? Were these like dice, predicated by chance, or something more sure? What did the white stone and black stone stand for?
- 2) Read Mark 3:13-19, Acts 1:15-26, and Acts 9:10-15. What happened to the disciple Judas, and what did Peter subsequently say that they needed to do? How were Mathias and Paul chosen? Which man do you think was really God’s choice for Judas’ replacement?
- 3) Ephesians 1:3-6 describes what Pastor Dominic called the Great Exchange. What is this? What does this tell us about our own standing with God?
- 4) According to Rev. 21:10-22, the apostles will each have a foundation stone in the wall of the eternal heavenly Jerusalem named after them; each with a corresponding precious stone. If our names are inscribed on a white stone (Rev. 2:17) —the Urim— then we too will be tucked safely behind “stones” in heaven. For those of us who are Gentiles, what stone will be especially important to us, and why?
- 5) What does all of this tell us about our importance to the ‘heart of God’? Can you embrace Him today? What does it mean to know you are considered by God to be “lights” and “perfections”? What does your heart want to say to God?