

“From Ordinary To Extraordinary”
Luke 6:12-19
Sermon Series: “The Servant King”

1. The apostles were the foundation of the church, but believers today are now called to carry out the ministry the apostles started (v. 13).

-They are the new leaders of the new covenant people of God (Luke 21:29-30, Revelation 21:14).

-Ephesians 2:19-22, Acts 2:42, 2 Peter 1:12-21

2. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things (v. 14-16, Acts 4:13).

John MacArthur: “That’s because they were perfectly ordinary men in every way. Not one of them was renowned for scholarship or great erudition. They had no track record as orators or theologians. In fact, they were outsiders as far as the religious establishment of Jesus’ day was concerned. They were not outstanding because of any natural talents or intellectual abilities. On the contrary, they were all too prone to mistakes, misstatements, wrong attitudes, lapses of faith, and bitter failure—no one more so than the leader of the group, Peter. Even Jesus remarked that they were slow learners and somewhat spiritually dense (Luke 24:25).

They spanned the political spectrum. One was a former Zealot—a radical, determined to overthrow Roman rule. But another had been a tax collector—virtually a traitor to the Jewish nation and in collusion with Rome. At least four, and possibly seven, were fishermen and close friends from Capernaum, probably having known one another from childhood. The others must have been tradesmen or craftsmen, but we are not told what they did before becoming followers of Christ. Most of them were from Galilee, an agricultural region at the intersection of trade routes. And Galilee remained their home base for most of Jesus’ ministry—not (as some might think) Jerusalem in Judea, which was the political and religious capital of Israel.

Yet with all their faults and character flaws—as remarkably ordinary as they were—these men carried on a ministry after Jesus’ ascension that left an indelible impact on the world. Their ministry continues to influence us even today. God graciously empowered and used these men to inaugurate the spread of the gospel message and to turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6). Ordinary men—people like you and me—became the instruments by which Christ’s message was carried to the ends of the earth.’

A. The empowering for doing extraordinary things is meeting the risen Christ and being filled with His Holy Spirit (Luke 24:44-49).

B. The methodology for doing extraordinary things includes:

-We are called to be with Jesus (v. 13, Mark 3:14).

-We are called to invest our lives in the making of disciples like Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20, John 17:18, 2 Timothy 2:2).

-We are called to live in community with other believers.

-Jesus lived His life this way.

-Small group application

-The church is called to be diverse so it is not supposed to always be easy to live life together.

-The presence of a fake does not eliminate our need for the community of the church (John 6:64, parable of the wheat and tares).

3. Jesus is worth us sacrificing our lives for Him.

-The martyrdom of the apostles

-Hebrews 3:1, Luke 9:23