

Luke 6:12-26

The Twelve Apostles

¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: ¹⁴ Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Blessings (Beatitudes) and Woes

¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, ¹⁹ and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when men hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

²³ “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven.
For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ Woe to you when all men speak well of you,
for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

Luke 6:12-26

1. What does Luke tell us about Jesus praying before selecting his apostles? Why do you think he did that?
2. What could spending an extended time in prayer accomplish that could not be accomplished in a shorter time of prayer? Could you pray all night?
3. From what larger group did Jesus choose his apostles? Why do you think he singled out some to be apostles?
4. What significant worship experience have you had in a large group?
5. Who was in the crowd to hear Jesus? (Vs 6:17) Why did they gather? (Vs 6:18-19) What effect did Jesus have on the people?
6. What four groups did Jesus single out to receive a blessing? How did the promised blessing fit the character or needs of each group? (Vs 6:20-22)
7. What does it mean to be poor (in spirit) and how can we achieve this? (Vs 6:20, James 4:7-10)
8. In verse 6:21, do you think Jesus is referring to a physical hunger or a spiritual hunger (for righteousness)? When will those who hunger be satisfied?
9. In verses 22-23, Jesus says you may be _____, _____, _____, and _____ because of your belief in the Son of Man. But he also says that you will be _____ in heaven. Has your belief in Jesus ever caused you problems?
10. In verses 24-26, Jesus says “woe to those who are rich, well fed, laughing, and have good reputations.” That’s pretty harsh. Does that mean we should turn our backs on this life and move to Zimbabwe, Somalia, or the Guatemala Garbage Dump?
11. If you had been a rich and famous person in Jesus’ day, how would you have reacted to his sermon?
12. In what ways are these words of Jesus comforting? In what ways are they challenging?