

imperfect in the ways described in the Message. As these attributes of ordinary and imperfect were shared, what were your thoughts? Do the Apostles seem more human to you? What attributes do you possess that would deem you ordinary and imperfect? The good news is God still calls you and can use you for God's kingdom work in the world today! Think about these insights and questions and write your reflections here.

Thursday, July 6

Read Acts 1:6-14. In addition to ordinary and imperfect, The Twelve were also Chosen and they were indeed The Twelve. Chosen by Jesus is important and that is expressed in the Bible. When Judas was replaced by Matthias, Matthias' name does not appear in any list of the Apostles. Some scholars suggest that is because Matthias was not chosen by Jesus. We do not hear of Matthias after his selection to round out The Twelve. Of course the number twelve is important also, representative of Biblical traditions. While we may not be The Twelve, we are certainly chosen in that we are called by God and Jesus Christ to share the good news of God's love. How do you view your chosen status? What is God and Jesus calling you to be and do in the world? Why would God and Jesus call you to a ministry and mission? Consider these questions and write your ideas here.

Friday, July 7

Read Acts 1:6-14. The most important attribute of The Twelve is they were transformed; they were transformed from their ordinary, imperfect nature to become the future of the church. How have you been transformed by your relationship with Jesus and God? What difference has those relationships made in your life? How have you been inspired and prepared to be in ministry and mission? Write your ideas here as you pray for the same power given to The Twelve through the Holy Spirit!

Message Notes – July 2, 2023

*The Twelve – Who Were These Guys**

- I. What's the difference between _____ and _____?
 - A. By definition, Apostle means "person _____," a "_____."
 1. Disciple means "_____" or "_____" – a "_____."
 2. Traditionally, an Apostle is primarily a person who actually met _____ during his lifetime on earth and was _____ by him to spread the gospel.
 - B. _____, who never met Jesus in the flesh, met the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus called himself an Apostle.
 - C. So _____ were these guys? _____ specifically did Jesus want them to do?
 1. They had the _____.
 2. They were told they would have the _____ to take on the mission.
 3. They now had the _____ of the mission – to the ends of the earth.

- II. The Apostles, the Disciples, The Twelve succeeded in bringing the good news of God's love to every _____, every _____, every _____ on the earth. Let's consider just who these guys were.
 - A. First, The Twelve were _____ men.

*Acts 1:6-14 and Mark 3:16-19

B. Second, the Apostles were _____ men.

C. Third, The Twelve were _____.

D. Fourth, the Apostles were _____.

III. Most important though, The Twelve were _____.

A. Because they were _____ they were _____.

B. My point is that The Twelve were transformed by their _____ with Jesus.

C. As we explore The Twelve this summer, I want for each of us to consider our own transformations – or should I say personal _____ – into the person we are called to be.

D. As we consider the _____ of The Twelve, I want for us to think through our own _____ as individuals and as a church.

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, July 3

One pastor and author wrote, “The average church member cannot name more than half of the Twelve. Some mistakenly include Mark and Luke.” (Leslie B. Flynn) What about you? Is it important for you to name all the Disciples or Apostles? Why would it be important to know who the Apostles were? When we

study the people in the Bible it is helpful to know their stories and the background from which they came. They provide examples of faithful and often not faithful living. What lessons have you learned from studying various people in the Bible? What lessons would you hope to learn from studying The Twelve this summer? Contemplate these questions and write your reflections here.

Tuesday, July 4 – Happy Fourth of July!

Read Acts 1:6-14. Pastor Jack mentioned a book and process called Strengths Finder by Tom Rath. The thesis of the book is that we often spend too much time trying to fix and improve our weakest attributes when it would be wiser to work on and maximize our strengths. There are 34 strengths mentioned in the book and Pastor Jack mentioned one called WOO which stands for Win Others Over. If you are a “WOOer,” you enjoy the challenge of meeting new people and getting them to like you. You are energized by meeting strangers. You start up conversations with strangers, breaking the ice and offering a connection with them. The Twelve were called to connect with other people and tell them of the love of God that is found through a relationship with Jesus the Christ. The church has depended on WOOers in the past and continues to depend on those who will witness and share their faith with others. To what degree might you possess this strength? What would you first say in an attempt to share your faith? Think about this strength and write your thoughts here.

Wednesday, July 5

Read Acts 1:6-14 and Mark 3:16-19. Just because a person is found in our scripture and depicted in a positive way, we believe them to possess super powers or at least super abilities to connect with other, possibly lead others and possess an admirable faith. That is not the case with The Twelve. They were ordinary and