

# LUKE Lesson 15

## Chapter 6:13-19, The Selection and Ministry of The Apostles

14 September 2018

Today when a man calls himself an “apostle,” he is ignorant of the qualifications of an apostle and so are his followers. Followers of such men are usually coming to SEE or FEEL something thrilling rather than to HEAR from God’s word (Rom 10:17, Heb 11:1). Today we’ll examine the credentials of a true apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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### THE CREDENTIALS OF AN APOSTLE

#### **1. APOSTLES WERE CHOSEN DIRECTLY BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

- a. Jesus chose “The Twelve” out of His group of disciples (Matthew 10:1-2, Mark 3:13, Luke 6:13)
  - b. Jesus Himself is the Chief Apostle, chosen and sent by God for a specific task (Heb 3:1).
    - i. Similarly, when Jesus called out His disciples, they were given a unique ministry.
    - ii. As Jesus was faithful to the One who called him (Heb 3:2), His disciples must be faithful to Him. (Judas failed his calling).
      1. We must be faithful to Him that called us to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8).
  - c. Jesus also selected other apostles beyond the **initial 12** (Acts 9:6, 9:15, 13:2, 22:10-15, Rom 1:1)
    - i. Paul and Barnabas (Acts 14:14, 13:2).
    - ii. Matthias (Acts 1:23-26). Casting lots was the method used to ensure the choice was not according to the will of men but was the choice of God (see Joshua 18:8-10).
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#### **2. APOSTLES WERE ENDUED WITH MIRACULOUS POWERS** (Proofs of apostleship, authority for the gospel).

- a. Jesus gave His twelve disciples (apostles) this miraculous power (Matt 10:1-2, Acts 5:12-15).
  - b. The apostle Paul demonstrated this power (Acts 16:16-18, 28:8).
  - c. These miracles served the purpose of authenticating the New Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ.
    - i. Without these miracles, the apostles would have been accused of being blasphemous liars preaching another god. They needed to prove it was God’s message and way.
    - ii. God’s Bible is a proven book today. Miracles are no longer needed to authenticate it.
    - iii. Modern day “Miracle workers” fake miracles to try and convince people that they received a message from God that isn’t in the Bible.
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#### **3. THE APOSTLES WERE TO BE HERALDS OF THE KINGDOM** (Herald: to proclaim; to announce).

- a. This message was to be proclaimed to Israel only (Matthew 10:5-8), as a “kingdom at hand.”
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#### **4. TO ONE APOSTLE (PETER) WERE GIVEN THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM** (Matt 13 parables, Matt 16:19).

- a. Peter opened the door of faith to the Jews (Acts 2) and then the Gentiles (Acts 10). The pope doesn’t have these keys. The door is already opened (Jn 10:9, Mt 11:28)! Enter while you may!
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## 5. THE APOSTLES HAVE A FUTURE RELATION TO THE KINGDOM

- a. The twelve apostles will sit on twelve thrones as judges of Israel in the kingdom (Matt 19:27-29)
  - b. David will rule Israel from Jerusalem. The Lord Jesus will judge the earth from Jerusalem (Isa 9:7).
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## 6. THE APOSTLES WERE GIVEN A NEW FUNCTION AND ABILITY ENABLING THEM TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO BOTH JEW AND GENTILE.

- a. **TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL MESSAGE:** Tongues (miraculous ability to speak or be heard speaking foreign languages not learned) were first demonstrated at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13).
    - i. Notice there were 120 disciples in the upper room (Acts 1:15). All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4), but only the twelve were speaking (Acts 2:14).
      1. That was the exclusive ministry of an apostle; to proclaim the new gospel message using miraculous signs and wonders.
  - b. **TO GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO MEN BY THE LAYING ON OF HANDS** (Acts 19:6-7, 18:17-20).
    - i. This was another way of authenticating the apostle's ministry and message.
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## 7. AN APOSTLE MUST BE AN EYEWITNESS OF THE RESURRECTED CHRIST

- a. The twelve were eyewitnesses (Acts 1:21-22).
  - b. Paul was an eyewitness (1 Cor 9:1-2).
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## MINISTRIES THAT WERE ESTABLISHED AFTER THE APOSTLES LAID THE GROUNDWORK (Ephesians 4:7-13)

1. **Apostles** (Eph 4:11) laid the foundation, proclaimed the gospel message, and committed it to writing.
  2. **Prophets** proclaimed the gospel message, edifying, exhorting, and comforting men (1 Cor 14:1-2).
  3. **Evangelists** enter an area where the gospel has already been proclaimed, help to establish a local body of believers, and then go to another area and do it again.
  4. **Pastors and Teachers** feed and minister to the local flock that was put together by the evangelist.
    - These additional ministries contribute to the edification unto perfection of the body of Jesus Christ.
    - No sign gifts are mentioned in this list of "gifts" because sign gifts were for authenticating the new message, not for promoting unity of the faith, the knowledge of the Son of God, the work of the ministry, and the edifying (building up) of the Body of Christ.
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## SOME PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM LUKE 6

**12-13** Notice the importance of prayer. Jesus didn't select His disciples without much prayer first. Jesus is our example (1 Pet 2:21). We should never make a decision without praying.

**Vs 17** Jesus didn't exercise "Pastoral Authority" and lord His authority over the flock (1 Pet 5:2-3). "**He came down with them**" (see Rom 12:16, Phil 2:7). He "**stood,**" and that's what He asks of us (Eph 6:13). "**He stood in the plain.**" You don't have to be eloquent (Ex 4:10) or uniquely gifted; Jesus can use you wherever you are. Plain folks standing with Jesus will draw men to Him (**Vs 18**).