

18. GENERATIONS

—*Invitation and Selection*

After spending the night in prayer, Jesus called his followers to himself “And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach.” (Mark 3:14) There are three key points revealed in Jesus’ selection of the Twelve: 1. Jesus chose them from among his many followers, thus making a distinction between the Twelve and the rest of his disciples; 2. They were to be “with him” to be trained (“discipled”); and 3. They were selected with the intent that they will eventually be sent (named “apostles” or sent ones) to pass on what they have learned.

INVITED, SELECTED AND CHOSEN

What do you observe about the invitation and selection to be trained in these verses? How did the ones Jesus chose respond to the his invitation and selection?

John 1:35-42

John 1:43-51

Matthew 4:18-20 (Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:4-11)

Matthew 9:9-13 (Mark 2:14-22; Lk 5: 27-32)

Mk 3:13-19 (Lk 6:12-16)

Acts 11:25-26

Acts 16:1-3

What can be learned from these examples of followers who were considered for, but did not become part of a smaller group to being trained or discipled?

Mark 5:18-20 (context: 5:2-20); Luke 8:38-39

Mark 10:17-22 (also 23-31; note Peter’s response in vs. 28)

Luke 9:57-62

FOR SPECIAL ASSOCIATION AND INSTRUCTION (“WITH”)

What distinctions or expectations are described between the crowds who followed Jesus and his true disciples? What special events, instructions and training were provided to those whom he selected?

Matthew 13:10-11

Mark 4:10-12; Luke 8:9-10

Mark 4:34; Luke 8:9-10

Luke 9:23-24; Matthew 16:24-25

John 8:31-32

John 13:34-35

John 15:5, 8

1 Corinthians 11:1

2 Timothy 1:13

2 Timothy 2:2

2 Timothy 3:10-11, 14

APPLICATION: Do you know a young (spiritually) Christian who is seeking to know Jesus better? Prayerfully consider helping him or her (“selection”) to grow toward maturity in Christ. Perhaps begin by simply inviting him or her to have quiet time with you once a week (see the “How to Have A Daily Quiet Time” tool under topic 2: Abiding in Jesus).