Unlikely People, Extraordinary Impact April 23, 2023

*Luke 6:12-19 Series: Through Jesus’ Eyes*

But people … do not find their vocations by asking, what do I want from life? They ask, what is life asking of me? How can I match my intrinsic talent with one of the world's deep needs? —David Brooks

Intro: Working with the last resort

1. Jesus is in it with His disciples for the long haul
2. Simon-Peter: The Rock who wasn’t until he was

John 1:42 *Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).*

Matthew 16:23 *But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”*

1. James & John: Impatience and anger transformed by Jesus’ love

Mark 3:17 *James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder)*

Luke 9:54 *And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”*

John 19:27 *Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.*

* Why would Jesus choose someone who failed so often?
* How would being called “the Rock” by Jesus affect you?
* How do you think time with Jesus changed John from a fiery, ambitious man to a gentle one who cares for widows?
1. Some disciples speak, some invite, some host
2. Andrew: Lived in Peter’s shadow but kept bringing people to Jesus

John 1:40-42 *One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus.*

1. Philip: Bringing people to Jesus

John 1:45 *Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”*

1. Batholomew/Nathanael: Overcoming prejudice to believe

John 1:46 *Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”*

John 1:49 *Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”*

1. Matthew: The tax collector who burned bridges but learned to build them

Luke 5:29 *And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them.*

1. Thomas: The devoted and doubting twin

John 11:16 *So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”*

John 20:25 *Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.*

* What are some different ways that we can “bring people to Jesus” even if we’re not great speakers?
* What are some ways to build bridges to people who are far from Jesus?
1. Most disciples never get a Hollywood Star
2. James: The unmentioned “lesser”

Mark 15:40 *There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.*

1. Simon: A converted religious nationalist who served in obscurity

Luke 6:15 *Simon who was called the Zealot*

1. Judas son of James/Thaddeus: Not that one

John 14:22 *Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?”*

* Where do you find your motivation when you feel like “the unmentioned lesser”?
1. Some disciples aren’t disciples at all
2. Judas Iscariot: The disciple who loved his sin more than Jesus

John 12:4-6 *But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.*

Luke 22:3 *Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve.*

* How do you know if your problems with sin are of the “Peter kind” or the “Judas kind”?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Luke 6:20-26.

Notes