



Essentials for a Healthy Church

Gift-Oriented Ministry

June 16, 2019

Jesus Builds His 'Dream Team'

OPENER: (In honor of the NBA finals) In 1992, America assembled what was called the greatest sports team ever assembled for the Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. Dubbed the 'dream team', it was composed of players such as Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Patrick Ewing, John Stockton, Karl Malone, and Charles Barkley among others. They won the Gold medal defeating their opponents by an average of 44 points per game. Question: If you were to assemble a 'dream team' today... who would you want on the team? (you can choose basketball, baseball, football or church-league softball as your game of choice!)

Read: *You've probably heard the phrase "God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called" (or something similar). This month we are looking at how God uniquely qualifies His people with talents, abilities and spiritual gifts which are to be used for the common good (cf. last week's discussion). This week we want to look at Jesus' approach to team-building and at the men He chose as His disciples. They were certainly an assorted lot and Jesus' choices probably go against popular wisdom in a lot of ways. In your group discuss how each of the disciples contributed in different ways to Jesus' overall mission and at how WE as a church can help equip those God has called to serve here.*

DIG: READ MARK 3:13-19; LUKE 6:12-16

- What do you think of that saying, "God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called"? Have you found it to be true in your life?
- Of the men Jesus called out to designate 'apostles', which one of these stands out to you first? Why?
- The word apostle means 'one sent with authority'. What task(s) did Jesus give these men to do? How did He equip them for these tasks?

- What do we know about the personalities of the various apostles... particularly the more prominent ones? What were their strengths/weaknesses, personality quirks?
 - Peter?
 - John?
 - James?
 - Thomas?
- How do you account for Judas? Do you think Jesus knew what was going to happen with him? If so, why did Jesus call him?
- To this group, the Lord later added Matthias to replace Judas. What qualification(s) did the apostles look for in choosing a new apostle? (read: Acts 6:1-4)

Read: **2 CORINTHIANS 11:6**

- How did Paul (whom many regard as the greatest preaching evangelist EVER) regard his own abilities?
- Can you think of other Bible figures who seemed uniquely UNQUALIFIED to do what they were called to do... and yet whom God fully equipped for success? Identify some...
- Why do you suppose God does this (calls the unqualified)?

Discuss:

- In **Eph. 4:12** we see that it is the job of spiritual leadership to prepare all of us for 'works of service.' How have you been equipped or prepared?
- Read: **1 Tim 1:6**. What have you done to 'fan into flame' your gift and prepare yourself for works of service?
- Talk about the various 'works' or ministries that each of you are involved in at Washington St (or in the community) and what they mean to you. Why are you involved in that work specifically?
- What other ministries or works would you maybe be interested in knowing more about?

PRAY

What/ who does this group need to be in prayer about tonight?