

Sermon Title: Ordinary Men, Extraordinary Calling

One of my favorite things to do if I have a couple of extra minutes or just need a mental break is to Google something and see what results come up.

- How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
 - Answer: **700 pounds**
- How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll Pop?
 - Answer: **364**
- How I can reach the world?
 - Answer: No good one given

Instead of continuing to waste my time looking for answers in the wrong places I probably should have just looked at the Bible first to get the right answer, so we are going to do that today.

What did Jesus do?

- The first group Jesus reached out to was his family and friends in the Jewish religion.
 - They react this way: **Luke 4:28-29**
- The next group he tries to reach out to are the religious elite.
 - They react this way: **Luke 6:11**
- **God had chosen another way, it was through unexpected, ordinary people,** not the religious elite, not popular people, not great teachers or even people with leadership skills.
 - God does things a certain way, He chooses people to serve Him that cannot take any credit for what is being done on their own.

God Chooses People

- Ephesians 1:4: "For God chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."
 - He did the same thing with the disciples: Example: **Luke 5:1-3**
 - We see in the Old Testament as well that God chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be the men to Father his chosen people of Israel

God then in His timing calls people to a certain job or task.

- It happens in **Luke 6:12-16**
- These were the men called to be apostles, which we loosely translate as "the ones who are sent."
- **An apostle is the most closely related to an Aramaic word *shaliah* which is more like an ambassador.** Shaliah were actually representatives of the Sanhedrin, the ruling council of all Israel.

- The office of Shaliah was what the apostles were to Jesus. They were called to deliver Jesus' message of salvation wherever they went with the same authority of Jesus.
- But this was not the Apostle's only calling in their life, they were first called to follow Jesus and be his disciple, then their calling changed again to be the church, and finally they were called to be martyrs for their faith.

The next step is for God to equip people

- For the twelve apostles that meant sitting at Jesus' feet 24-7-365 during his ministry.
- If you travel to Israel or Europe you will see large Cathedrals dedicated to these men, that is only because of the transformation that took place in their lives when God equipped them, taking them from ordinary men into the giants of our faith.

Finally, after God equips people, he then sends people out

- In Mark 3 we have the same story as Luke 6, but Mark adds details in verses 14-15 **Mark 3:14-15**

Our lives and our faith today are not much different from the apostles of old. We are also Shaliah who are chosen, called, equipped, and sent out to represent Jesus in the world today.

Have you ever thought about being chosen, called, equipped, and then being sent to your job or school every day to bring Jesus' message of salvation for sinners?

Challenges:

1. Be a part of a small group and learn more about these 12 ordinary men Jesus chose.
2. Take some time in prayer this week asking God for clarification on your calling and where you are being sent.
 - a. **Our calling is not based on our intellectual ability to understand it, and neither is our obedience.** We just need to take up our cross and follow Jesus.
3. I want us all to celebrate our ordinariness this week

Sermon Title: Ordinary Men, Extraordinary Calling

One of my favorite things to do if I have a couple of extra minutes or just need a mental break is to Google something and see what results come up.

- How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
 - Answer: _____
- How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll Pop?
 - Answer: _____
- How I can reach the world?
 - Answer: No good one given

Instead of continuing to waste my time looking for answers in the wrong places I probably should have just looked at the Bible first to get the right answer, so we are going to do that today.

What did Jesus do?

- The first group Jesus reached out to was his family and friends in the Jewish religion.
 - They react this way: **Luke 4:28-29**
- The next group he tries to reach out to are the religious elite.
 - They react this way: **Luke 6:11**
- God had chosen another way, it was through _____, not the religious elite, not popular people, not great teachers or even people with leadership skills.
 - God does things a certain way, He chooses people to serve Him that cannot take any credit for what is being done on their own.

God _____ People

- Ephesians 1:4: "For God chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."
 - He did the same thing with the disciples: Example: **Luke 5:1-3**
 - We see in the Old Testament as well that God chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be the men to Father his chosen people of Israel

God then in His timing calls people to a certain job or task.

- It happens in **Luke 6:12-16**
- These were the men called to be apostles, which we loosely translate as "the ones who are sent."
- An apostle is the most closely related to an Aramaic word *shaliah* which is more like an _____. Shaliah were actually representatives of the Sanhedrin, the ruling council of all Israel.

- The office of Shaliah was what the apostles were to Jesus. They were called to deliver Jesus' message of salvation wherever they went with the same authority of Jesus.
- But this was not the Apostle's only calling in their life, they were first called to follow Jesus and be his disciple, then their calling changed again to be the church, and finally they were called to be martyrs for their faith.

The next step is for God to _____ people

- For the twelve apostles that meant sitting at Jesus' feet 24-7-365 during his ministry.
- If you travel to Israel or Europe you will see large Cathedrals dedicated to these men, that is only because of the transformation that took place in their lives when God equipped them, taking them from ordinary men into the giants of our faith.

Finally, after God equips people, he then _____

- In Mark 3 we have the same story as Luke 6, but Mark adds details in verses 14-15 **Mark 3:14-15**

Our lives and our faith today are not much different from the apostles of old. We are also Shaliah who are chosen, called, equipped, and sent out to represent Jesus in the world today.

Have you ever thought about being chosen, called, equipped, and then being sent _____ every day to bring Jesus' message of salvation for sinners?

Challenges:

1. Be a part of a small group and learn more about these 12 ordinary men Jesus chose.
2. Take some time in prayer this week asking God for clarification on your calling and where you are being sent.
 - a. Our calling is not based on our intellectual ability to understand it, and neither is our _____. We just need to take up our cross and follow Jesus.
3. I want us all to celebrate our ordinariness this week