

# The Mountain, the Apostles, and the Traitor

Sermon Series: **Luke: All Things New**



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Luke 6:12-16



## Big Idea

Jesus chose Judas the traitor, not by mistake, but because the Father told Him to, because the redemption of a new and eternal Israel depended upon His being betrayed to the cross.

### (1) The Mountain (v. 12)

These have been days of increasing opposition and conflict Jesus. These have been days when the new things arriving in Him have been coming under fire from the old things established in Israel. In days like these, we see where Jesus goes: to the mountain, all night, to talk to His Father.

### (2) The Apostles (vv. 13-16a)

What is meant by the word “apostle”? This word in English is just a transliteration of the word in Greek *apostolos*, which is itself a noun derived from the verb *apostello*, which according to the industry standard Greek lexicon means: “to dispatch someone for the achievement of some objective, to send out” (BDAG). So this word “apostle” may be a noun grammatically, but it has at its core the rumbling energy of a verb.

Why did Jesus choose twelve apostles in particular? For those of us who know our OT, does that number strike you as significant in any way? O it does, doesn't it! For when YHWH initially sought to redeem a people and form them around Himself, how many tribes did He choose? Twelve. The twelve tribes of Israel. Implication: Christ is forming a new covenant community, a new Israel, a new people of God, a new humanity around Himself—beginning with these twelve apostles. All that was pictured in Israel is finding its ultimate fulfillment in Christ.

### (3) The Traitor (v. 16b)

Here is perhaps the most captivating detail in our text. Responding to the rising opposition of the religious establishment in Israel, Jesus organizes a new community, a new Israel, around Himself. But intriguingly, from within this new community will arise the sharpest opposition of all!

We come to see that God means for us to make this connection between Jesus' prayers on the mountain and His selection of Judas the traitor so that we can be sure of one thing in particular: However much the cross can be ascribed to the wicked intentions of sinful men, it is above all else to be ascribed to the redemptive intentions of a gracious God. God's grace is not accidental, it is sovereign. And the cross is not God's afterthought it is His plan from all eternity.

## Reflection Questions



- Where do you go when life gets rough; when conflict and opposition are on the rise; when you're hurting or you're feeling hopeless? Be honest. How would going out to a mountain and praying through the night help?
- Is God done with ethnic Israel? Has He moved on in Christ and left them behind? Or does He still have some plan for them in the future? How should we understand them now in light of Christ's person and work? Use Scripture to support your answer.
- Can you imagine living three years in intimate relation with someone you knew would betray you? How are you at loving, blessing, and praying for your enemies? How specifically do you need Christ's help in this?