



GROWTH GROUP

Pentecost 4

Week of 6/28/2020

Getting Started

How many of the twelve apostles can you name? They're listed in verses 2-4. Last week we asked about your favorite disciple, which should have helped to prepare you for this question. Mark and Luke are commonly thought to be apostles, but are not. Judas ends up being replaced by the Apostle Paul in the 12 apostles.

Into the Word

Read **Matthew 9:35-10:8**.

Why did Jesus show compassion toward the crowds? Because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

What is an apostle? An apostle is one who is "sent out" by Jesus to proclaim the gospel. The twelve apostles had a special call from Jesus to proclaim the gospel without boundaries. In a very real sense, though, we are also "apostles" whenever we proclaim the gospel.

The harvest is still plentiful and the workers are still few. What are some things you can do to encourage workers to go out into his harvest field with the motivation of "freely you have received; freely give"? Answers will vary. While encouraging young people with gifts for ministry to consider doing it fulltime is really important, self application may revolve more around proclaiming the gospel out in the world where God has planted us.

Read **Exodus 19:2-8**.

What is a covenant? (See 19:5.) A covenant is an agreement. God is here establishing a covenant with his people: obey me fully and you will be my treasured possession. This is a two-sided covenant. God's covenant with us is one-sided (cf. Jeremiah 31:31-34).

How would God view his Old Testament people if they obeyed his Word? They would be for him a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

God said, "you will be a kingdom of priests." What is a priest? The Scriptural job description of a priest is to be a go-between or mediator between God and human beings. In particular, he offered sacrifices for the sins of the people. God commanded that there be such priests in Old Testament times from the tribe of Levi. But in the New Testament there is no longer any need for such priests because through the sacrifice of Jesus, our great High Priest (Hebrews 7:26-28), we have all become priests of God (1 Peter 2:4-10), offering up our own spiritual sacrifices.

Apply

The Israelites said, "We will do everything the LORD has said." We all read that and think, "Yeah, right." But they meant it. When have been times in your life when you felt like you were going to do everything the LORD has said? What was it that made you feel that way and gave you that desire? What changed, or what distracted you?

Answers will vary based on experience.

Pastor asked, "What will it take from God to get you to be serious about his Word? What does he have to do?" Answers may vary. The reality is God has already undeservedly payed the price for your sin (given his one and only Son, given his life for you). If this isn't what it takes, then nothing else will get you serious about God's Word either. Focusing on the gospel of Jesus, seeing God's love for us, knowing he loves us most and has our best interests in mind, and is even willing to sacrifice for our best interests, trusting all of this is what it takes to get us to be serious about his Word.

Do you have the desire right now to do everything the Lord has said? What does that say about your heart? Remember what Pastor Z said about the actions might get done and that doesn't necessarily say anything about the heart... God wants your heart, and God has put this desire in your heart.

Around the Room

Share your highs and lows for the week.

Pray