



LET'S VISIT

A Publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935

Volume 12

Number 25

June 22, 2025

JESUS CHOOSES HIS TEAM

Remember when you were in school and it was time to choose teams to play various sports? I remember that when I was in elementary school, we would choose teams and they would always fight over whose team I would be on. One group would say, “you can have Perkins” and the other would say, “no, we had him last time, you have to take him this time”. It was a real confidence builder.

Well, instead of a team to play baseball or kickball or football in the school yard, where would you begin to recruit a team to alter the course of history? Would you start in the universities, would you start with the most successful businesses or would you go to the heads of government?

Jesus began with a walk by the lake. “Follow me” is what he said to them, and they did. That’s how Jesus’ uncommon mission with the apostles began.

Twelve of the most common individuals you could ever find. In fact they were more than common. They were almost misfits. In some ways they remind us of the odd couple. The neat freak and the slob are forced to live together. Then, maybe they remind us of the people on Gilligan’s Island. Remember them? Seven people who were all weird in some way, stranded together on a deserted island.

Actually, maybe they are more like the “Dirty Dozen”. Remember the 1967 film that starred Lee Marvin. Twelve hardened criminals and a colonel on the outs with his commanders on a mission to eliminate the Nazi leadership during a daring raid.

However, I want us to consider who Jesus did not choose for his inner circle. He didn’t select a rabbi. He didn’t select scholars. He did not build his team from the religious establishment. He assembled a ragtag bunch of men with unimpressive resumes. But you see, that was all a part of the plan. Jesus was not

looking for religious superiority. He was not seeking extraordinary talent.

Jesus wanted ordinary people. People with hopes and dreams of their own who were willing to leave their lives behind to follow the Savior. He wanted ordinary folks. Folks like us.

What is sad is the fact that we so often put these twelve men on a pedestal. We make them some kind of “supersaint” and dehumanize them. They were just twelve men who were human in every sense of the word and we must not lose touch with who they really were. Truth be told, it almost seems Jesus chose men notable only for their ordinariness.

These men had no intrinsic ability or outstanding talent of their own. They were all Galileans. They were not the elite. They were rural, uneducated people. They were commoners and nobodies.

In that group there was Peter, the one with the foot shaped mouth and Judas the one with the checkbook who usually managed to take a little for himself. Then there was Thomas, the one we call doubting.

If you want a contrast, we have Simon the Zealot and Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector and Simon was a tax protester. Matthew was a revenue collector for the Romans and Simon was a rebel. Matthew was wealthy and Simon was a commoner.

Jesus selected the twelve from the unworthy and
(Continued On Page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 – Shreveport – 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 – 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 – 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



*“Living The
Abundant Life”
Loving One
Another*

For The Pantry. . .
June 22 – Cake Mix

Offering – June 1, 2025 . . \$ 2,681.00

The Lord’s plan of giving ...”as ye have prospered”

Jesus Chooses His Team – continued from page 1

unqualified. They were like the rest of us. They were like Elijah, “men with passion like ours”. They did not rise to the highest usefulness because they were somehow different from us. Their transformation into vessels of honor was the work of the potter, Jesus and His alone.

God chooses the humble, the lowly, the meek and the weak. That way there is never any question about the source of power when their lives change the world. It’s not the man, it’s the truth of God and the power of God presented by the man.

Remember, these men were not “super saints”. When Jesus chose them, they still needed teaching. Their shortcomings and humanity seemed to overshadow their potential and time was short. They had already left the vocations they were expert in. They had abandoned their nets. They had forsaken their fields and left the tax tables. They had left the familiar to be trained for something for which they had no natural aptitude.

For them, the learning process was a difficult one. They lacked spiritual understanding and were slow to hear and slow to understand. They were at times thick, dull, stupid and blind. Yet, to remedy their lack of spiritual understanding, Jesus just kept on teaching.

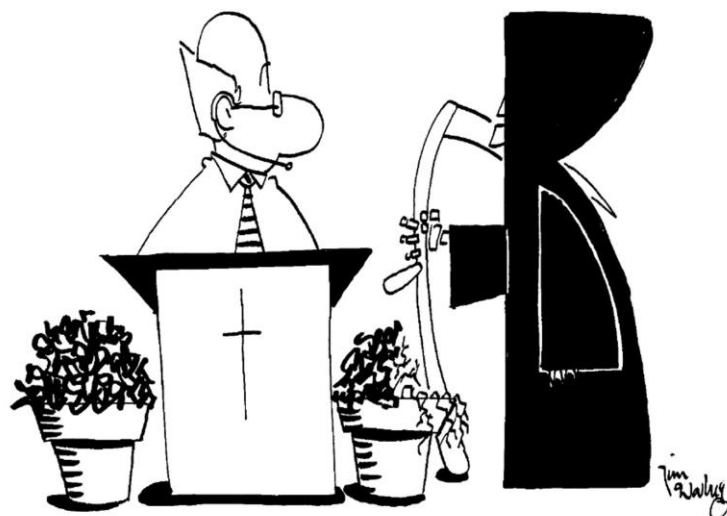
There was something else that made learning difficult on their part. They suffered from a serious lack of humility. They were self-absorbed, self centered, self-promoting and proud. They spent a lot of their time arguing about who would be greatest among them. Yet, Jesus overcame their lack of humility by being an example of humility. He even washed their feet as he modeled servanthood.

We look at these men and we see their weaknesses and wonder why Jesus chose them. Why didn’t he just choose a different group of men? No one could ever examine this group of men and conclude they did what they did because of their own abilities. There is no human explanation for the influence of the apostles. The glory goes to God alone.

Their relatively brief time of training with Jesus bore eternal fruit. To be sure, at first it might have seemed to have gone for naught. When Jesus was betrayed, they were scattered like sheep. Yet, when we come to the book of Acts, we see these men do the work Jesus trained them to do. They changed the world for Jesus. They turned the world upside down. If they can do great things through the power of God, so can we.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



“No, no ... I’m just here for your mic battery.”



September 7, 2025

Put this date on your calendar, make your plans to be here and invite ALL your family and friends to come and join us for worship and lunch!

Let's make this the greatest "Friends and Family Day" in the history of the Center Church of Christ!

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Communion Preparation for June
Mike & Jana O'Brien



Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL

We would love for you to join us on Wednesday Nights for our Mid-Week Bible Study and plan to join us for our next Wednesday Night Meal on June 25, 2025.

We hope you will make your plans to join us not only for this but for our Wednesday night Bible Study every week.

There is a sign-up sheet on the shelf in the foyer. PLEASE! Sign up and indicate if you plan to come and eat so we will have some idea of how much food to prepare.



OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) Richard Barbee (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) David Bissett (Mike O'Brien's brother in law, cancer) Dwayne Brister (Cissy Amos' cousin) Jane Adams Burkhalter (Diedra Hughes' cousin) Debra Clifton (friend of LaResa Livingston) Coleen Dickerson (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) Leta Dozier (Ryan Perkins' grandmother) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Emily Heflin (Mike Bostick's niece recovering from surgery) Suzi Hogan (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) Ted Holt (former member of this congregation) Wynell Lawson (Diedra Hughes' aunt) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Norma Magby (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Lane O'Brien (Mike and Jana's son) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; J. C. Tate & Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's father and mother) Norman Turner (Norma Perkins' father)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the Calendar for 2025.

December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday
December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



Across The Preacher's Desk

Paul's second letter to Timothy is the last of his letters that has been preserved for us. In chapter 1 and verse 12 he writes, "I know whom I have believed". Dr. Moffatt's translation reads: "I know whom I have trusted".

Notice what Paul says. He does not say he knows what he believes. He says he knows the one he has trusted. It was personal with Paul. His trust was in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. Paul trusted Jesus completely. No reservations. No hedging or contingency plans. No hesitation. He had placed his faith in a person, not merely a message.

A little later in this letter, chapter 4, he tells young Timothy that the time of his departure is at hand. However, he tells him that a crown of righteousness is waiting for him.

The faith that sustained Paul in his final imprisonment and execution is available to us. Paul had made Jesus Christ the Lord and Master of his life when he was obedient to the things Ananias told him to do. When we make Jesus the Lord and Master of our lives by our obedience and putting Him on in baptism and living obedient to His will, like Paul we can know whom we have believed, we can know whom we have trusted and we can face the end of life with the same confidence Paul had that a crown of righteousness is waiting for us.

it's something to think about.....tlp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**