

The Apostles of Jesus Christ

Luke 6:12-16; Acts 1:25-26; 13:1-4 & 14:14; Romans 16:7; Galatians 1:19

Memory Verse

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” --Matthew 28:19

Message

The apostle ministry came from the Lord Jesus and is still active today.

Additional Lesson Content

Note: This lesson is a discussion on the Apostle ministry which will incorporate the following biblical references. The presentation of the material as a story is not applicable. The lesson should build and outline the commission of the Apostle ministry.

The twelve Apostles appointed by Jesus:

¹² On one of those days, Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray. He spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called for his disciples to come to him. He chose 12 of them and made them apostles. ¹⁴ Simon was one of them. Jesus gave him the name Peter. There were also Simon's brother Andrew, James, John, Philip and Bartholomew. ¹⁵ And there were Matthew, Thomas, and James, son of Alphaeus. There were also Simon who was called the Zealot ¹⁶ and Judas, son of James. Judas Iscariot was one of them too. He was the one who would later hand Jesus over to his enemies. (Luke 6:12-16)

Additional Apostles of the first church:

²⁵ Show us who should take the place of Judas as an apostle. He gave up being an apostle to go where he belongs." ²⁶ Then they cast lots. Matthias was chosen. So he was added to the 11 apostles. (Acts 1:25-26)

¹ In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers. Among them were Barnabas, Simeon, and Lucius from Cyrene. Simeon was also called Niger. Another was Manaen. He had been brought up with Herod, the ruler of Galilee. Saul was among them too. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit spoke. "Set apart Barnabas and Saul for me," he said. "I have appointed them to do special work." ³ The prophets and teachers fasted and prayed. They placed their hands on Barnabas and Saul. Then they sent them off. ⁴ Barnabas and Saul were sent on their way by the Holy Spirit. They went down to Seleucia. From there they sailed to Cyprus. Acts 13:1-4 *with* But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out (Acts 14:14)

⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. (Romans 16:7)

But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. (Galatians 1:19)

Additional Lesson Content – Continued

The Commission and Authority of the Apostles

Apostle means ambassador or envoy. Jesus Christ, who was sent by His Heavenly Father for the salvation of man, is referred to as an Apostle in Hebrews 3:1. He commissioned his Apostles: *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore^[c] and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28: 18-20)

According to the commission, *“Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”*, the Apostles’ teaching firstly comprises what Jesus himself taught. In addition, the Lord announced to his Apostles that the Holy Ghost would provide further revelations, saying, *“I have much more to say to you. It is more than you can handle right now. ¹³ But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own. He will speak only what he hears. And he will tell you what is still going to happen. ¹⁴ He will bring me glory by receiving something from me and showing it to you.”* (John 16: 12-14)

To enable the Apostles to fulfill their commission, Jesus Christ gave them the authority to baptize (cf. Matthew 28:19) and forgive sins. *“If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”* (John 20:23). With this authority, the Apostles are able to reconcile man with God (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:20).

Someone who has authority, Acts in the name of the one who gave him the authority. Everything done by the authorized representative, is as valid as if the one granting the authority were doing it himself.

God and his son Jesus Christ are almighty (i.e. they have power and omnipotence in heaven and on earth). Jesus, for example, acted with divine authority when he healed the sick, raised the dead, or drove out unclean spirits. The authority Jesus also conferred on his Apostles, which showed itself, for example, when Apostles Peter and John healed the lame beggar at the entrance to the temple. The rulers, elders and scribes of the people of Israel asked them, *“By what power did you do this?” they asked. “And through whose name?”* (Acts 4:7). Apostle Peter then explained that he had acted in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

The Apostles of the End Time

In the year 1832, in England, John Bate Cardale was called as the first Apostle of the end time through prophecy. Currently, there are 346 Apostles, including the Chief Apostle.

The Apostles of the end time are equipped with the same commission, power and authority as the first Apostles. The Apostles’ responsibility is to gather a congregation for the Lord, to lead it, and prepare it for the union with Jesus Christ.

Talk About It

Read today’s lesson together and help your child to understand the Apostle ministry. The Apostles today are ambassadors of the Lord Jesus. They continue to teach, to baptize with water and the Holy Spirit, and prepare us for the day of the Lord. Apostles spend much of their time traveling and away from those they love in order to continue the work of the Lord Jesus and help gather the souls for His return. When you pray together, remember these men of God and all of our ministers as they work to fulfill their ministries. Talk about it.