

## Reflection Questions: Luke 6:12-19

For the message, "Turning the Word Upside Down" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on May 19, 2019

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These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

### **LUKE 6:12-19**

**12** One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. **13** When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: **14** Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, **15** Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, **16** Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

**17** He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, **18** who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, **19** and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

**A summary of the message:** After spending a night in prayer, Jesus picks a group of 12 individuals that he would pour his into and entrust with his message. The list of disciples is impressive in how unimpressive these people are. And yet, Jesus chose to amplify his extraordinary life through the lives of these ordinary individuals. And he can do the same through our lives as well.

**Bottom Line:** Following Jesus means accepting the invitation to live our ordinary lives in light of the extraordinary life of Jesus.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. We're told in verse 12 that Jesus spent all night praying to God ahead of this decision about which twelve people he will pour his life into. Luke is especially interested in highlighting Jesus' need for and desire to pray.
  - What do you think we are supposed to learn from this? What do you find encouraging about this? What do you find challenging about this?
2. If we were there at the time and saw whom Jesus picked after praying all night about this decision. We might be tempted to second guess Jesus. Matthew the tax collector? Everyone hated tax collectors. Peter the impulsive person who often spoke before he thought about what he was saying, and who would later deny Jesus? Simon the Zealot who wanted to overthrow Rome by any means necessary? Judas Iscariot who would become a traitor?
  - What do you think we are supposed to see in this list of questionable and unimpressive people—these unschooled, ordinary men (Acts 4:13)?

- After reflecting on this question, read this passage from 1 Corinthians 1:26-31: “Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: ‘Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.’”

- What does this teach us about the purposes of God? How does this highlight Jesus’ intentions for us?

3. We’re told in verses 17-19 that Jesus was performing miracles left and right. And yet, as the pastor mentioned in the message, the reason we know about Jesus and have even heard about his first disciples is because of the greatest miracle of all, namely Jesus own resurrection from the dead. Acts 4:33 tells us, “And with great power, the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.”

- Why is the resurrection of Jesus the defining miracle of Jesus? And why do you think this was central to the message the disciples of Jesus proclaimed?

- How should the miracle of the resurrection of Jesus keep us on point as to what is of first importance to both our faith and the message we proclaim, namely, that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, was raised from the dead, and appeared to hundreds of eyewitnesses (1 Corinthians 1:1-9)?

4. The pastor said in his message on this text that we should learn to see ourselves as disciples of Jesus. This is what they were known to be before they were called Christians (cf. Acts 11:26). What if you woke up everyday with the thought that you are first and foremost a disciple of Jesus? What are/ should be the implications of this? How would this define your day?

5. Lastly, just like the original disciples, we are encouraged to live our ordinary lives in light of the extraordinary life of Jesus. Do you find it easy or difficult to believe that Jesus would want to amplify his life through yours?