

BAKER'S DOZEN

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baptism - today 2pm. Quillen home in Murrieta. Flyers available w/map.
- B. Slide3-19 Haiti Pastors Conf - more like a retreat, wasn't a lecture, we collaborated together to find God's truths.

II. Intro:

- A. Ch.9 ends with a discussion about praying for laborers to go into God's harvest. Ch.10 begins with Jesus commissioning (or sending out) the laborers.
 - 1. Beware, if you start to **pray** for laborers...you may become **an answer** to your own prayer. **But** no worries, **The will of God does not send you where the grace of God cannot keep you.**
- B. Listen to this story: The story is told of Jesus' return to heaven. After dying for the sins of humanity, he was greeted by the Angel Gabriel. An awesome thing you did, Lord, Gabriel said. Incredible! Does the world know? Jesus answered, *not really. As a matter of fact, only a few guys in Palestine understand what I did.* Well, how is the rest of the world going to understand? *I'm entrusting those guys with the message. I'm trusting they will carry My message throughout the world.* But what if they don't? Gabriel asked. What did they decide to go back to fishing? Or what if they get afraid? Or what if they get tangled up in relationships? What happens if they don't do it? What is your plan then? **And Jesus** replied, *I have no other plan.* [what a responsibility. It's a story...but a reality]
- C. Jesus is going to answer a couple of questions here: How He would make **His message permanent** & How He would make **His message duplicatable**.
 - 1. He chose men whose **heart** He could **write His message on**, & who would **go out** from His presence to carry it abroad.

III. Slide20 BAKER'S DOZEN 13, Jesus + 12 [former **bakers' custom** of adding an extra loaf to a dozen sold]

- A. Slide21a His - Not just a disciple, but **His** disciples. Jn.10:27 *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*
- B. Slide21b Disciples - They were followers, apprentices, pupils, trainees & students... **before** they were teachers.

1. Jesus had many disciples/followers, but these 12 were His leaders - those He commissioned to build His Church after His return to heaven.
 2. They weren't only **disciples**, but now also **Apostles**, *sent forth w/a commission*.
 3. **Apostle** was used by the Greeks for the **personal representatives of the King**, *ambassadors who functioned w/the Kings authority*.
- C. **Slide21c Power** - msg makes me :) *He gave them power to kick out the evil spirits and to tenderly care for the bruised and hurt lives.*
1. When **called** into His presence they received their equipment, **power** and **authority** (or *exousia* = *delegated authority* as Luke tells us)
 2. **The Jackass brays mightily** but the forest does not tremble.
The Tigers paw barely presses the fallen leaf, & all rush for shelter.
 - a) The 12 had this *Tiger paw authority* against the unclean spirits to cast them out.
- D. **Slide21d Unclean spirits** - refers to evil spirits or demons. According to Jewish purity laws, people inhabited by such spirits were **unclean**.
- E. **Slide21e Heal every disease and every sickness** - **Healing**, in addition to **exorcism**, served as an authentication of the disciples' message.
1. Jesus commands them to validate their **commission and message** *through* **substantiated signs**.

IV. Slide22 **TEAM ECLECTIC (2-4)**

- A. **Slide23 The 12 apostles** - Matthew initially refers to this group as **disciples**, or *learners*.
1. He calls them **apostles**...those who are **sent out** w/the authority of the sender.
 2. We have here **6 groups of 2**, or **3 groups of 4 company's**. [also in Mk.3:13-19, Lk.6:12-16, Acts 1] (*about to be sent out 2x2*)
 3. **Each time** the **12 Apostles** are listed, **Peter** is mentioned **first** (because of his **prominence**) and **Judas**, **last**.
 - a) **Eg.** 1st Paul seemed to have been discipled by Barnabas. Barnabas was the more prominent figure (*see* Acts 13:1,7 & *then changes* in vs.13. **Also 5x's**, in Mt.2:11, 13,14, 20,21 *the Child & His mother*).

4. Also note, it was common to have a nickname, or 2. Or to have names in the different languages of the day...*eg. Peter*(Gk name) *Simon*(Heb name) *Cephas*(Aramaic name)

B. Slide24 Company #1

1. **Simon** - Peter 1st - he generally was listed 1st, **but** it also means 1st as in the leader. **The Lord sets leaders among leaders.**
 - a) Jesus had changed **Simons** name to *Peter, a little stone & a right solid stone he became*
2. **Andrew** - Peter's bother. *What a blessing when brother's in the flesh, become brother's in the spirit.*
 - a) Don't give up on your brother/sister coming to Christ. *He 1st found his own brother Simon* (Jn.1:41). *Andrew always seemed to be in his brother's shadow...I wonder if that mattered to him?*
 - (1) **Have you** grown up under your brother or sisters shadow?
3. **James & John** - The 2 *sons of Thunder*. Not necessarily a title to be proud of... they had **volatile tempers**.
 - a) Yet **John**, after hanging around Jesus, became the apostle of **Love**.
 - b) **James** was so *early* to be martyred...*while John* lived the *longest* of the 12.

C. Slide25 Company #2

1. **Philip** - Told *Nathanael* of Jesus. **He also brought word to Jesus of 2 Greeks who wanted to see Him.**
 - a) **Philip**, *like Andrew and Peter*, was from **Bethsaida** by the Sea of Galilee (Jn 1:44).
2. **Bartholomew** - not a name **but** who his dad was, *BarTolmi*, aramaic, *son of Tolmai*
 - a) Probably *Nathanael*. He is never mentioned w/o an **and**. **Thus**, He seemed to be the kind of man to always be **working w/other people**.
 - b) He was the **skeptic**, *can anything good come out of Nazareth*.
3. **Thomas** - called Didymus/twin in John 11:16. *He was one who questioned Jesus' resurrection* (John 20:24-27). **AKA the doubter**, doubting Thomas.
 - a) Praise God for his good questions though (**where?** & **way?**)
4. **Matthew** - humbly reminds us of *his old dubious occupation of tax collector*, **maybe so** the **Grace** which called him might be the **more conspicuous**.

D. Slide26 Company #3

1. **James** - son of Alphaeus, *the less*, or *the younger*. Not much known of him.
 - a) James is only mentioned in the lists of apostles.
 2. **Lebbaeus** - **Thaddaeus**, or **Jude**. He preached in Armenia.
 3. **Simon** - the Canaanite. The moniker *Zealot* refers to a sect of Jewish anti-Roman activists.
 - a) Simon had been a member of *the revolutionary Jewish Zealots*, a political party that sought to overthrow the Roman Empire.
 4. **Judas Iscariot** - 2x2 with the **traitor** bringing up the rear. Judas in his rightful place, always last on the lists. *Iscariot may mean from Kerioth, a Judean town.*
 - a) Jesus gave him the highest trust in watching over the funds. Yet, he was even a failure at that. This quality that rendered him **useful** was the one that **perverted him to his own end**. Money got the best of him & he sold his companion & friend for *30 pieces of silver*.
 - b) What a description to have always follow his name...*who also betrayed him*.
- E. **Slide27** No power in the world could have united these men for a common task, except the call of **Jesus**. That call transcended all their previous *divisions* & established a *new & steadfast fellowship* in **Jesus**.
1. Even **Judas** went forth to *the Christ-work* & the fact that he did so, will always be **a Dark Riddle & an Awful Warning**.

V. **Slide28 TEAM, EVEN MORE ECLECTIC...YOU & ME**

- A. **Be Encouraged**...by worldly standards...these men had **no qualifications** at all.
1. Not wealth, no special positions, no special education. *They were not trained theologians, not high ranking churchmen, they were 12 ordinary men.*
 - a) Acts 4:13 *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were **uneducated and untrained men**, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*
 - b) He **didn't** pick the influential, the powerful, the learned or the wise. **But** good men, simple men, men that were open & easy to mold.
- B. **Slide29-32** Jesus uses every sort of **individual**.

1. Are you **determined, adventurous, original**, a **born leader** type, **but** sometimes **speak** before you **think**?
 - a) He will **chasten** you & make you **steadfast**, **like Peter**.
 2. Are you a **keen observer, a deep thinker**, **maybe** leadership **isn't** your #1 gift?
 - a) He will use you for **insight & teaching** others, **like John**.
 3. Are you full of **questions, even doubt, & move forward w/hesitation**?
 - a) Jesus can **train intellectual questioners** & use them to bless others, **like Thomas or Nathanael**.
 4. Are you a **practical** man/woman, familiar w/**public affairs**?
 - a) Christ will avail Himself of your **administrative** ability, **like Matthew & Simon**.
 5. Are you a **radical political activist**?
 - a) Christ can make you **radically active** for Him, **like Simon the Zealot**.
 6. Do you have **directness, straightforwardness, a self-reliance** about you?
 - a) Jesus will take these & enable you to give **assurance & confidence** to others, **like James & Andrew**.
 7. Do you have an **explosive personality**?
 - a) God can temper it, **like with the sons of Thunder**.
 8. Do **faith come easy to you**, where you don't need a ton of facts, just a clear call from Jesus?
 - a) Christ will utilize your quick faith & energize you in His service, **like Philip**, to whom Jesus simply *found Philip and said to him, Follow Me*. And he followed.
 9. Are you **unknown, inconspicuous, unimportant**, feel your always living in someone else's **shadow**?
 - a) Christ can use you also, you in your small corner, **like the other James, the other Simon, & the other Judas**. [They didn't even bear an *exclusive* name]
 - (1) **Team Eclectic**. *What beautiful & artistic Individuality*.
- C. **Slide33** When I get to heaven I'm **not** going to be asked *Brian why were you not like Moses?* **But** I hope not to hear, *Brian, why weren't you Brian?...the Brian I meant you to be!*
1. **Don't forget: Jesus** worked **inward**, rather than **outward**.
Jesus worked **Intensively**, not **extensively**.

Jesus stamped Himself on a **few**, **then** sent them out to reach **many**.

Jesus wrote **not a line** that endured, **but much on human hearts**.

D. Don't you love how God can **take** a worthless, sinful life, **wash it** in *the blood of Christ*, **put** His Spirit in it, **and then make it** a blessing to humanity?

E. **Christ Has No Hands** - *Annie Johnston Flint*

F. Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today

G. He has no feet but our feet to lead men in the way

H. He has no tongue but our tongue to tell men how He died

I. He has no help but our help to bring them to His side.

J. We are the only Bible the careless world will read,

K. We are the sinner's gospel; we are the scoffer's creed;

L. We are the Lord's last message, given in word and deed;

M. What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?

N. What if our hands are busy with other work than His?

O. What if our feet are walking where sin's allurements is?

P. What if our tongue is speaking of things His lips would spurn?

Q. How can we hope to help Him or welcome His return?