

## **Choosing the Twelve**

Luke 6:12-19

by Don Falkos

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One day Jesus went up on a mountainside and spent the whole night in prayer. In the morning he called together all of his disciples. From among them Jesus chose twelve to be his apostles, a word that means messengers. These men became Jesus' closest followers, his most dedicated students, and eventually, they were sent out as his representatives. The men he chose were Simon (whom Jesus later re-named Peter), Simon's brother Andrew and his cousins James and John, Philip, Bartholomew, Levi (also known as Matthew), Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who later betray Jesus.

Jesus and his newly appointed apostles came down from the mountainside out onto a vast open plain where many of Jesus' disciples had already gathered. They were joined by huge numbers of people from near and far who had come to hear Jesus and to be healed of various diseases. Many of these people were delivered from evil spirits, and all of them were trying to touch Jesus, because power was flowing out from him, healing everyone.