

Mark 3: 13-19

13 He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message, ¹⁵and to have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, ¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Commentary: The word 'apostle' means 'one who is sent.' What were the disciples becoming apostles sent out to do? They were sent out 'to proclaim the message, and to have authority to cast out demons.' This was a lofty call. Yet when we consider the list of names, we also realize that they were a motley crew, certainly unstable and definitely inexperienced. Was Jesus applying good judgement in his selection? Was there a future for the 'Jesus movement' with such a group?

Here we are confronted by a common biblical theme: The God we're given in scripture is a mystery whose ways confound us. And yet, those who trust this 'God' discover the kind of wisdom, insight, perspective and direction they would never have done had they not trusted journeying with this God into unknown territory.

We, too, are journeying through unknown territory in this season of Covid-19. We've never been here before. What will this mean for our society and world? What will it mean for us? Are we prepared to learn trust in the great mystery whom we call 'God' in a whole new way during and beyond this season? 'Trust' or faith means that even as we cannot see the future, we are learning to trust that some blessing can come into our lives if we make the journey with trust rather than fear. How are we going to be part of the goodness coming into the world through our growing trust in the author of goodness?

Prayer: Lord God, it is difficult for me to trust in a presence I cannot see... in you. And this is especially difficult in situations and times when it's hard to see good things coming. But I want to learn to trust you, to trust that you will be present to guide me into new and wonderful places, new wisdom and understanding, new maturity in my oneness with you and my love for those around me in creative ways. Visit me often in ways to awaken me in this season of Covid-19... Amen.