



Zion Hill Baptist Church

11115 Kinsman Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44104

Office: (216) 561-8824 FAX (216) 561-8827

E-mail: zhmb1042@att.net

Website: www.zionhill-mbc.org

Rev. Jimmy L. Gates, Sr., B.A., M.Div. Pastor

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Call In: 701-802-5360

Access Code: 7817353

**Join 9 a.m. Sunday School
online? - Call in 978-990-5047**

~ Access 3312613#

**You can watch Sunday
messages on our website -**

www.zionhill-mbc.org.



August 16, 2020

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9



22 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23

Announcements:

Responsive Reading today:
I Samuel 19:8-17

FROM THE PASTOR:

We will have communion on today, August 16th and service in the parking lot, weather permitting.

Zion Hill's 103rd Anniversary is September 6, 2020. The theme is "*Growing Stronger, Growing Deeper, Reaching Higher*" Isaiah 40:31

Colors are White and Purple. Each ministry is asked for a minimum \$100.00 donation. If any member is not a member of a ministry, you can make your contribution to your ministry of choice.

Wednesday Bible Study online at 7 p.m. – see phone number to call in on the cover of bulletin.

Sunday School online on Sunday's at 9:15 a.m. - see phone number to call in on the cover of bulletin.

As of now we are coming back to the sanctuary on Sunday, September 6, 2020. **If you are not feeling well, please stay home until you are better.**

FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR.....

“And when day came, He called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: Simon, whom He named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.” Luke 6:13-16

Jesus was about to choose His disciples. In one sense, there was nothing in Jesus' three years of ministry before the cross more important than this. These were the men who would carry on what He had done, and without them the work of Jesus would never extend to the whole world. No wonder Jesus gave this critical choice an entire night of prayer. For this was about to be the “Gang Of Twelve”

Jesus was God; yet He did not simply use His infinite knowledge to pick the apostles. Instead, He prayed all night. Like every other struggle Jesus faced, He faced this one as a man; a man who needed to seek the will of His Father and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit just as we do.

I believe one night alone in prayer might make us new men, changed from poverty of soul to spiritual wealth, from trembling to triumphing. The disciples, and the apostles belonged to Jesus. Disciples never belong to any man; they only belong to Jesus. They are His disciples. A disciple was a learner, a student, but in the first century a student did not simply study a subject; he followed a teacher.

Jesus chose twelve apostles because this was the foundation of the new chosen people, and as Israel had twelve tribes Jesus would also have twelve apostles. From among the group of His followers the larger group of disciples, He picked twelve to be apostles. The idea behind the ancient Greek word for apostle is “ambassador.” “The Greek word is Apostolos, which means

‘sent one’.” It describes someone who represents another and has a message from their sender.

Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor. We really do not know much about most of these men. Peter, James, John, and Judas we know something about. Yet of the other eight, we pretty much only know their name. There are many interesting connections with this group. There are brothers (James and John, Peter and Andrew); business associates (Peter, James, and John were all fishermen); opposing political viewpoints (Matthew the Roman-friendly tax collector, and Simon, the Roman-hating Zealot); and one who would betray Jesus (Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor).

Jesus chose Judas, knowing how he would turn out and become a traitor. Jesus later told His disciples that He chose them, and He knew one of them was a devil. Jesus also had many others to choose from. He chose these twelve from among many others.

Jesus wasn't looking for an edgy person to make scandal or controversy. We read of no other scandal surrounding Judas during Jesus' ministry. The other disciples seemed to do worse things during their three years with Jesus. Jesus chose Judas knowing him and what he would do, but also knowing that God would allow and even use the great evil Judas did for great good, despite the intention of Judas. A man once asked a theologian, “Why did Jesus choose Judas Iscariot to be his disciple?” The teacher replied, “I don't know, but I have an even harder question: Why did Jesus choose you and me?”