

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

WITHOUT ME, YOU CAN DO NOTHING

RLJ-1351

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PART 6: THE LOVE COMMANDMENT

THE TRUE CHARACTER OF THE APOSTLES

When Jesus started to select the people to staff the kingdom of God on this earth, He had a variety of men: fishermen, a tax collector, a political activist and other different vocations. They were from different parts of Galilee and Judea with different backgrounds. They would argue amongst themselves from time to time and Jesus had to corral them. **Mark 9:33-35**

Some of the disciples were petty and did not love Jesus, but followed along because of His power, and became angry when a woman tried to minister to Him. **Matthew 26:6-13**

When Jesus and the apostles passed through Samaria and were rejected by the Samaritans, James and John wanted to kill them. **Luke 9:51-56**

The apostles were boastful and assured Jesus that they would never abandon Him, yet when Jesus needed them the most, they all deserted Him. **Matthew 26:31-35; 47-56**

John and James sent their mother to Jesus to work out a deal for them and the other ten apostles were furious when they heard about it. **Matthew 20:20-28**

The apostle Peter tried to work out a deal with Jesus so that He only had to forgive a person seven times. **Matthew 18:21-22**

The apostles represented a cross section of the human race. They were proud, arrogant, unloving, unforgiving, selfish, easily offended, glory hogs, fame seekers and power hungry. Yet, they were all handpicked by Jesus. **John 15:16**

THE SHAPING OF THE APOSTLES

In previous sermons I have shown how Jesus commanded the disciples to preach the Gospel, heal the sick and cast out demons, but this supernatural activity did nothing to change their sinful human nature. Here is what Jesus told them:

1. They had to be born again. **John 3:1-8**
2. They had to accept the fact that they were not going to be rulers, but servants on the earth. **John 13:1-18**
3. They had to abide in Him and keep His commandments. One of the commandments to the disciples was to love one another. **John 15:9-17**
4. Unforgiveness was not an option; they had to forgive if they wanted God to forgive them. **Matthew 18:21-35**



5. None of the apostles could keep the commandments of Jesus in the flesh; it could only be done through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4**

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Where do you fit in?

1. Have you been born again?
2. Do you have a servant's heart or are you haughty and arrogant?
3. Can you truly say that you love other believers in Christ?
4. Are you an unforgiving Christian, with anger, bitterness and resentment in your heart?
5. Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit?

ARE YOU BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

How can you know if you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit? Check the fruit in your life:

1. The fruit of the flesh. **Galatians 5:19-21**
2. The fruit of the Holy Spirit. **verses 22-25**

Check the fruit in your life and you will know if you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit. If your fruit is evil, do you want to eradicate that crop in your life? If not, you are just like Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus. The choice is yours!

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?