

Day 4: Nearness Is Not the Same as Belonging

Read: Matthew 7:21-23

Judas was close to Jesus—but never truly committed to Him. It's possible to know about Jesus without knowing Him personally.

Do I truly trust and follow Jesus—or just associate with Him?

Do I rely more on facts about Jesus in place of faith in Jesus?

Where might I be holding back full surrender to Him?

Day 5: Receiving What You Cannot Earn

Read: John 21:15-19

Peter failed—but he turned back to Jesus and was restored. The difference between Peter and Judas was not their failure—but their response. Though both men fell—only one fell into grace. Because knowing about Jesus is not the same as belonging to Jesus.

When I fail, do I run toward Jesus or away from Him?

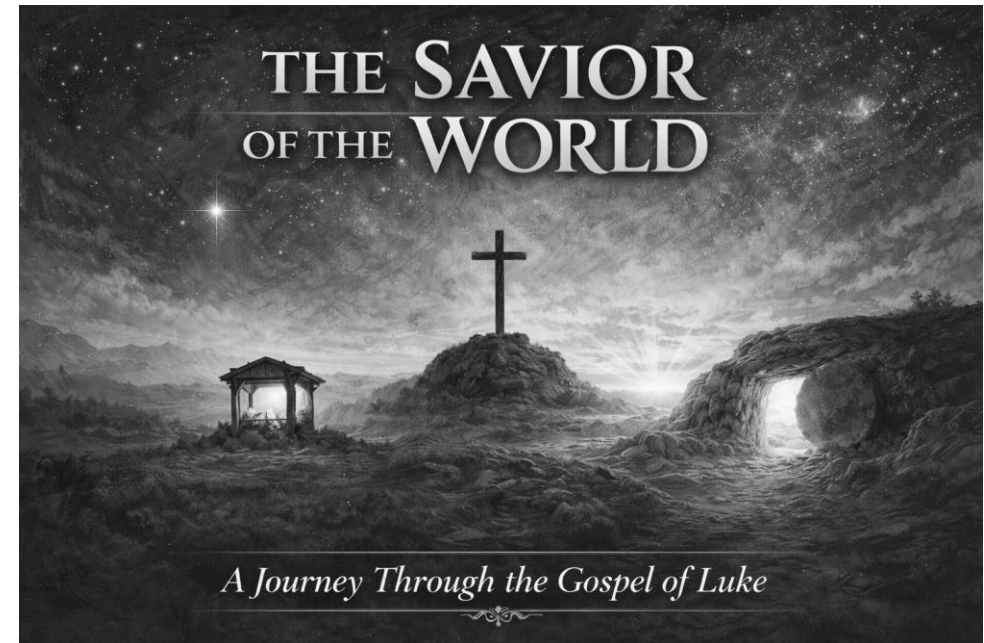
What would it look like to fully turn to and trust Him today?

A Final Encouragement

Jesus does not choose people based on their ability—but calls them into a relationship, transforms them by grace, and sends them in His power.

The question we must ask is not, “Am I enough?” The question is, “Am I His?”

Before there is responsibility, there must be a relationship. For Jesus clearly said, “*Apart from me you can do nothing.*” (John 15:5)



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THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD:

The Appointed Apostles

Luke 6:12-16

SERMON NOTES

Prayer: The Power for Mission (v. 12)

- Jesus withdrew to the mountain—not to escape pressure, but to seek the Father
- He prayed all night, in sustained and intentional communion.

We often treat prayer like a prelude—something we do before the “real work” begins. Or like a postlude—something we do after we’ve done all we can. But Jesus shows us something different.

Prayer is not preparation for ministry—it is the power of ministry.

The Calling that Leads to Sending (v. 13)

- From many disciples, Jesus chose twelve apostles
- Disciple = one called to follow Jesus—a relationship defining who they are
- Apostle = one sent by Jesus—a responsibility driving what they do

Though the role of the apostles has ended, a similar responsibility continues. For all who trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are His disciples. And every disciple is also sent—sent for a purpose, with a mission, and as a witness.

The People Jesus Chooses (v. 14-16)

- The Twelve are a diverse and unlikely group
- Some are prominent, some lesser known, and some nearly forgotten
- United not by similarity—but by Christ

Jesus does not build His church by removing our differences, but by redeeming them through His cross and uniting us in His resurrection.

A Warning and an Invitation

- Peter failed—but turned back to Jesus
- Judas failed—but turned away from Jesus

Jesus didn’t choose the best men—He chose the right men. And then He formed in them what they needed from Him. Because God does not call the qualified—He qualifies the called.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Day 1: The Priority of Prayer

Read: Luke 6:12

Jesus spent the entire night in prayer before making a major decision. Not because he lacked clarity—but because He delighted in communion with the Father.

We often treat prayer as something to squeeze into our lives. Jesus shows us it is what shapes our lives.

What does my prayer life reveal about my dependence on God?
When pressure rises, where do I turn first?

Day 2: Called Before Sent

Read: Luke 6:13

Before the disciples were sent out, they were first called to be with Jesus. Christianity is not first about what we do—it’s about who we belong to.

Am I spending intentional time with Jesus?
Is my identity rooted in Him or in what I do for Him?

Day 3: God Uses Ordinary People

Read: Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 11:28-30

The apostles were not impressive by worldly standards. That was intentional. Because God works through ordinary people so that His power—not our ability—is put on display

Where do I see myself as inadequate or unqualified?
How might God want to use that very weakness?