

What would you prefer?

- I would like to have been alive when Jesus walked the earth.
- I would like to have Jesus alive with us today.
- I would like to keep things just the way they are.

John 16

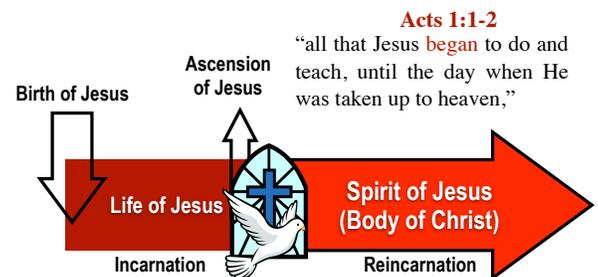
“5 But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ 6 But because I have said these things to you, **sorrow has filled your heart.** 7 But I tell you the truth, **it is to your advantage that I go away;** for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. . . . 12 I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth;** for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and **He will disclose to you what is to come.** 14 He shall glorify Me; for **He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.**”

Observations

- ✓ **Sorrow** because of Jesus is leaving.
- ✓ **Advantage** because of Jesus is leaving.
- ✓ **Insight** because of Jesus is leaving.

By leaving Jesus would not be **with** them but he would be **in** them.

In some sense, the church is the “reincarnation” of Jesus to its generation.



- ✓ We are not God **but we bear His image.**
- ✓ We are not Jesus **but we have his Spirit.**
- ✓ We are not the Word **but we proclaim it.**

Mark 3

“7 And Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a great multitude from Galilee followed; and also from Judea, 8 and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude heard of all that He was doing and came to Him. 9 And He told His disciples that a boat should stand ready for Him because of the multitude, in order that they might not crowd Him; 10 for He had healed many, with the result that all those who had afflictions pressed about Him in order to touch Him 11 And whenever the unclean spirits beheld Him, they would fall down before Him and cry out, saying, “You are the Son of God!” 12 And He earnestly warned them not to make Him known.”

Mark 3

“13 And He went up to the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. 14 **And He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him, and that He might send them out to preach,** 15 **and to have authority to cast out the demons.** 16 And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), 17 and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, “Sons of Thunder”); 18 and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; 19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.”

Two contrasting paragraphs

vs.7-12

Jesus is called on by people from all over.

The people's interest in Jesus is easy to explain.

Unclean spirits are exhorted to be quiet.

Jesus' has authority over the power of darkness.

vs.13-19

Jesus calls and appoints 12 disciples

Jesus' interest in the 12 is harder to explain.

Disciples are exhorted to preach.

Jesus' authority is given to his disciples

This marks a shift in Jesus' ministry in the Gospels

Part #1

Jesus has contact with many.

Public ministry is focused on Israel.

Sermons

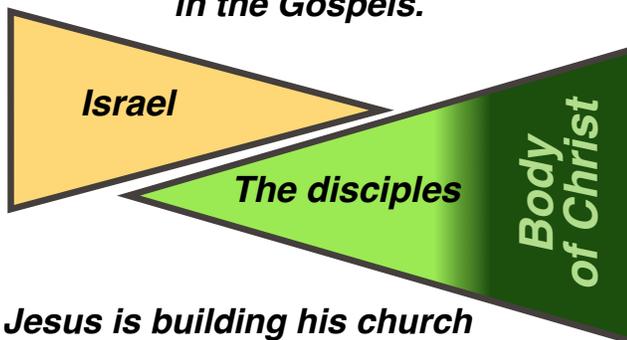
Part #2

Jesus is intimate with a few.

Public ministry is for the training of the 12.

Parables

This marks a shift in Jesus' ministry in the Gospels.



Jesus is building his church - the Body of Christ.



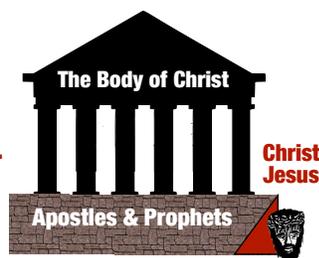
Disciples of Jesus

- ✓ In some ways the 12 were **unique** - Apostles (foundation) of the church with special revelation, signs, & wonders.
- ✓ In other ways they were a part of the early **church**.

Ephesians 2:20-21

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord.”

The epistles of Paul are the **foundation of Christian theology**.



Example #1 of Jesus being IN but not OF the world.

As the Body of Christ we share the authority of Jesus in this world.

Mark 3

“¹⁴ And He **appointed** twelve, that they might be **with** Him, and that He might **send** them out to preach, ¹⁵ and to have **authority** to cast out the demons.”

Four privileges

- ✓ **Appointed** as a special group.
- ✓ **Invited** into a special relationship.
- ✓ **Commissioned** to a special task.
- ✓ **Authorized** with special power.

- ✓ **Appointed** as a special group.

1 Peter 2:9

“But you are **a chosen race, a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so **that you may proclaim** the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

- **We are ambassador sons and daughters.**
- **God has chosen to work through us (as the Body of Christ) at this time in history.**

- ✓ **Invited** into a special relationship.

John 14

“¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and **will be in you.** ¹⁸ **I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**”

- **Do not think of Christ as away from us.**
- **But walk knowing that he is IN us.**

- ✓ **Commissioned** to special task.

Matthew 28

“¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.””

Romans 10:15

“How will they preach **unless they are sent**? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!”

- ✓ **Authorized** with special power.

1 Peter 4

“¹⁰ As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks, is to do so **as one who is speaking the utterances of God**; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving **by the strength which God supplies;**”

- **We should not be timid or insecure.**
- **Nor should we be proud or insensitive.**

**Christ shares
himself and his power
with those chosen to be
his church.**

Some implications for our day

- ✓ As members of God's church, we share an intimate relationship with Christ. **Are we experiencing that relationship?**
- ✓ Ministry is much more than words & actions; it is spiritual authority brought against the powers of darkness. **Are we exercising that authority?**
- ✓ Christ chooses to have fellowship with, & trust his ministry to people who don't have it all together. **Are we following that example?**

Some common misbeliefs.

- ✓ God can't and won't use me because I am not holy enough. **He used the disciples?**
- ✓ I am weak and cannot be trusted to be faithful. **He trusted the disciples?**
- ✓ God can't use a messed up and worldly church. **He used the early church?**
- ✓ Revival is needed before things will change. **It starts with acting on our faith?**

The key to spiritual revival is not prayer!

(asking God to do something)

**It is believing and acting on
what God has already done!**

(at the Cross and at Pentecost)