

## **The Unlikely Servant**

Series: Summer Encounters: Snapshots from the Life of Jesus

Matthew 10:2-4 (1719)

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### **I. Jesus often chose the most unlikely people to accomplish his purposes**

#### **a. A brief survey of some of the people Jesus chose**

Matthew 10:2-4 NIV <sup>2</sup> *These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.*

Mark 16:7 NIV *But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'*

Luke 9:54 NIV *When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"*

Mark 10:35-37 NIV <sup>35</sup> *Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." <sup>36</sup> "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. <sup>37</sup> They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."*

William Barclay *Tax collectors had entered the service of their countries conquerors, and they had amassed fortunes at the expense of their countries misfortunes. They were notoriously dishonest.*

Luke 19:2, 8 NIV *Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ...Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.*

William Barclay *The plain fact is if Simon the Zealot had met Matthew the tax-collector anywhere else than in the company of Jesus, he would have stuck a dagger in him.*

#### **b. Reflecting on this truth years later, the Apostle Paul summarized the Lord's approach to selecting his servants**

I Corinthians 1:28-31 TM *Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. Everything that we have—right thinking and right living,*

*a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. That's why we have the saying, "If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God."*

## **II. How then does this truth apply to me?**

- a. To the one who has utterly failed... Jesus says, "welcome home"**
- b. To the one society has "written off"... you matter to Jesus and you matter to us**
- c. To the one who fears, "If you really knew me, you would reject me" ...Jesus does really know you and he loves and invites you anyway**
- d. To the one who thinks, "But I need to be in control"... welcome to the kingdom where Jesus alone calls the shots**
- e. To the one who knows she/he has some good things to offer... Jesus affirms that truth and invites you to submit those things to his service**

**The critical key to this reality is coming to understand and embrace who we REALLY ARE in Christ Jesus!**

*William Barclay Jesus chooses men [and women] not only for what they are, but also for what they are capable of becoming under his influence and in his power.*