

August 10

The Multitude and the Twelve

I will give great thanks to Yahweh with my mouth. Yes, I will praise him among the multitude. For he will stand at the right hand of the needy, to save him from those who judge his soul – Psalm 109:30-31

[Mark 3:7-19, Galilee] Jesus withdrew to the sea with his disciples, and a great multitude followed him from Galilee, from Judea, from Jerusalem, from Idumaea, beyond the Jordan, and those from around Tyre and Sidon. A great multitude, hearing what great things he did, came to him. He spoke to his disciples that a little boat should stay near him because of the crowd, so that they wouldn't press on him. For he had healed many, so that as many as had diseases pressed on him that they might touch him. The unclean spirits, whenever they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, "You are the Son of God!" He sternly warned them that they should not make him known.

He went up into the mountain to pray, and he continued all night in prayer to God. When it was day, he called his disciples, and from them he chose

twelve, whom he also named apostles that they might be with him, and that he might send them out to preach, and to have authority to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: Simon, to whom he gave the name Peter; James the son of Zebedee; John, the brother of James, and he surnamed them Boanerges, which means, Sons of Thunder; Andrew; Philip; Bartholomew*; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus; Thaddaeus (Judas the son of James); Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. He came down with them, and stood on a level place, with a crowd of his disciples, and a great number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; as well as those who were troubled by unclean spirits, and they were being healed. All the multitude sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. [Luke 6:1-19]

*possibly the Nathanael of John's gospel.

1. How does this differ from the last time Jesus got in a boat to avoid the crowd (Jan. 26)?
2. Why did Jesus pick the Twelve? Why did he choose you? How will you respond?
3. Jesus, I want to cling to you as a disciple, not as just one of the multitude, so today I...