



WELCOME

— THANK YOU FOR JOINING US —



THE MEN JESUS CHOSE



LESSONS FROM THE APOSTLES OF JESUS
WEDNESDAY 7 PM AUDITORIUM CLASS
(MARCH-MAY 2025)

Ice-Breaker Question

If you could have your pick of individuals to assemble a group for a world-changing task, who or what kind of people would you choose to do it?



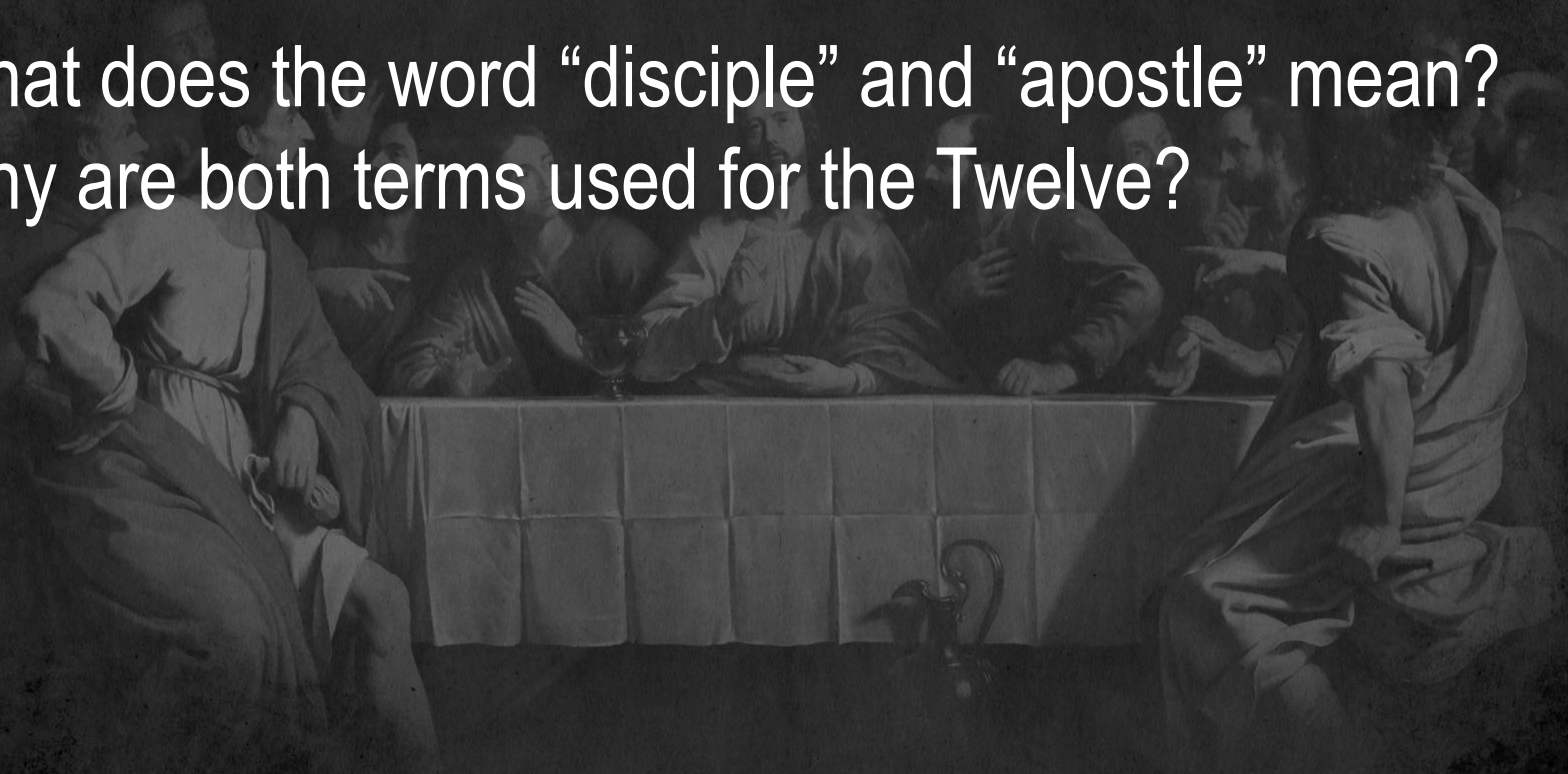
The Men Jesus Chose

The background of the slide is a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper'. It depicts Jesus Christ seated at the center of a long table with twelve apostles. Jesus is wearing a blue robe over a pinkish-red tunic. The apostles are dressed in various colored robes (blue, green, yellow, white) and are shown in various states of shock and confusion, with some pointing and others gesturing. The scene is set in a room with a dark background and a white tablecloth. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing the text 'Lesson 1—Apostles 101'.

Lesson 1—*Apostles 101*

Question 1

What does the word “disciple” and “apostle” mean?
Why are both terms used for the Twelve?



“Disciples” and “Apostles”

“Sometimes in Scripture the Twelve are called “disciples”—*mathetes* in the Greek text (Matthew 10:1; 11:1; 20:17; Luke 9:1). The word means “learners, students.” That is what they were during those months they spent under the direct and personal tutelage of the Lord...

TWELVE ORDINARY MEN

HOW *the* MASTER
SHAPED HIS DISCIPLES *for* GREATNESS,
and WHAT HE WANTS *to* DO *with* YOU



JOHN MACARTHUR

“Disciples” and “Apostles”

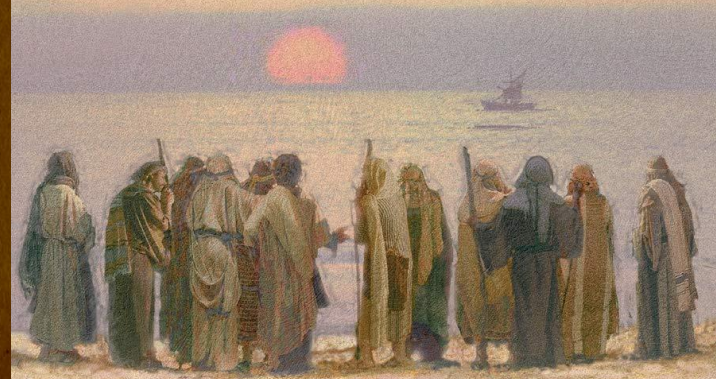
“He had multitudes of disciples, but these twelve were specifically called and chosen to a unique apostolic office. Therefore they are also designated “apostles”—*apostoloi* in the Greek. The word simply means “messengers, sent ones.” They were given a unique ambassadorial office of authority and spokespersonship for Christ” (MacArthur, John. *Twelve Ordinary Men*, p. xvi).

TWELVE ORDINARY MEN

HOW *the* MASTER

SHAPED HIS DISCIPLES *for* GREATNESS,

and WHAT HE WANTS *to* DO *with* YOU



JOHN MACARTHUR

Why Study the Apostles?

“...In the vision of the writer of the revelation the twelve foundation stones of the wall of the Holy City had inscribed upon them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (Rev. 21:14). The twelve apostles are the foundation stones of the Christian Church. It is, therefore, right that we should study them, not only to learn the facts about them, but also to see what apostleship meant for them and what discipleship must mean for us” (Barclay, William. *The Master's Men*, p. 11).

ABINGDON CLASSICS

The Master's Men

Character Sketches of the Disciples



Ordinary People Made Great by the
Transforming Power of Christ

William Barclay

Question 2

Is this word only applied to the twelve apostles? Who else is this word used to describe?

Hebrews 3:1—Jesus

1 Corinthians 9:1—Paul

Acts 14:14—Barnabas

Galatians 1:19—James

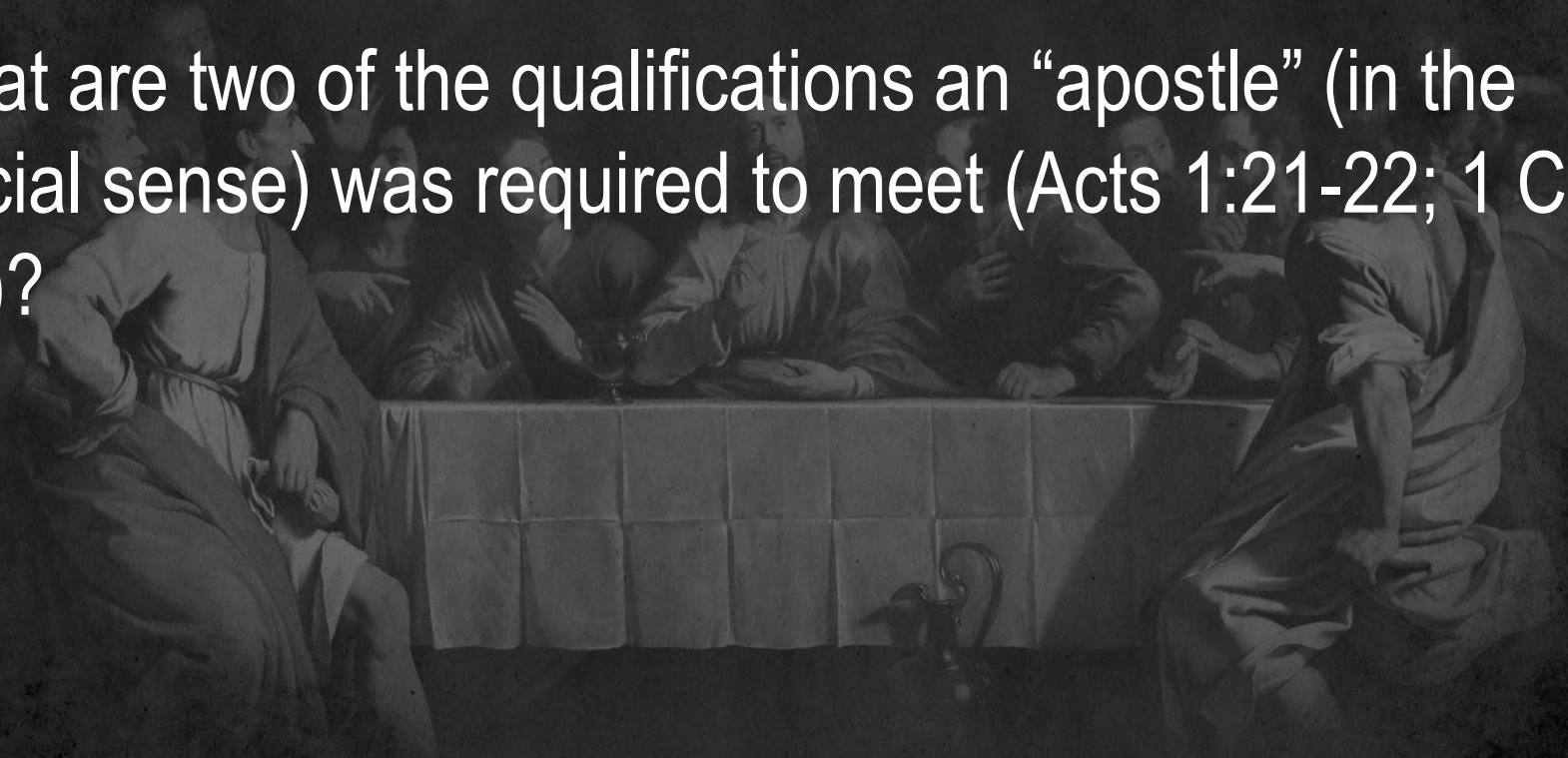
Romans 16:7—Andronicus and Junia

Philippians 2:25--Epaphroditus

1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2:6—Silas and Timothy

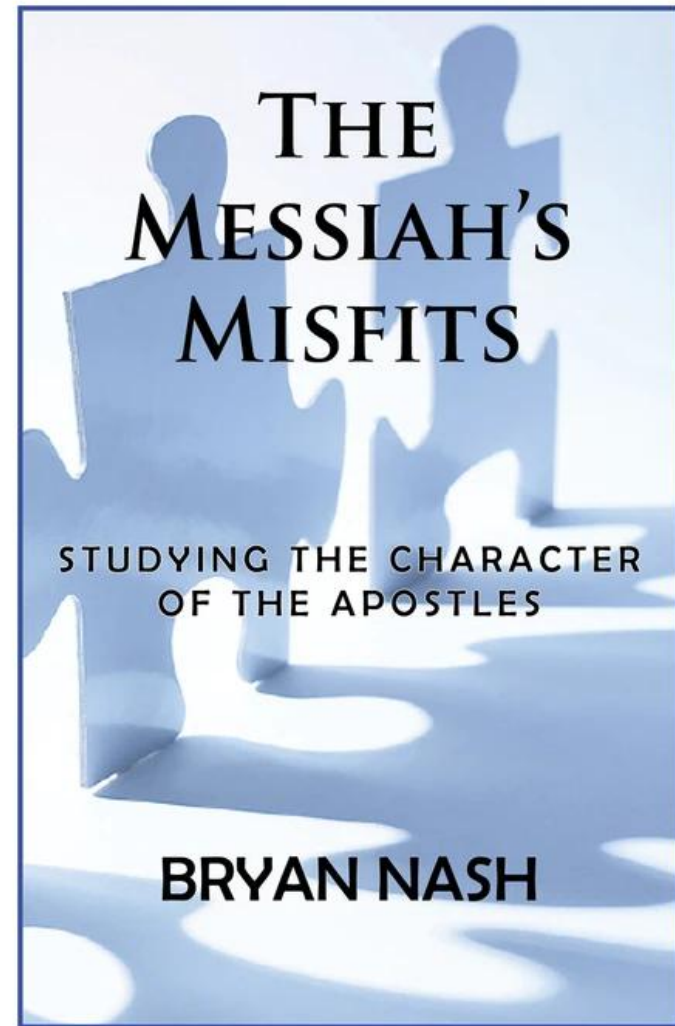
Question 3

What are two of the qualifications an “apostle” (in the official sense) was required to meet (Acts 1:21-22; 1 Cor 9:1)?



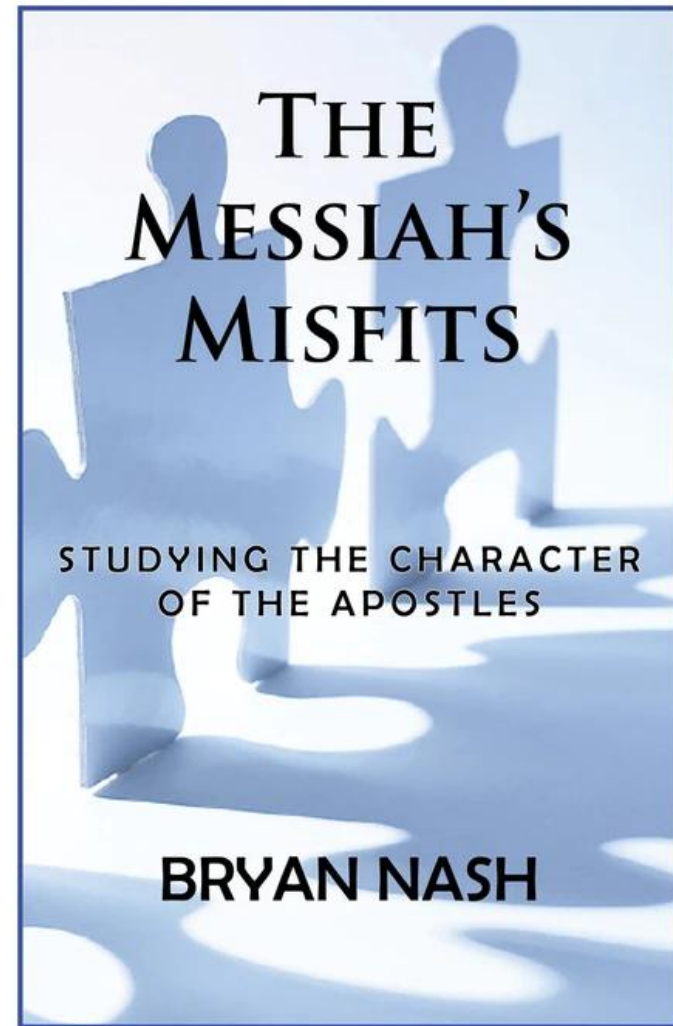
Qualifications of An Apostle

“...When choosing someone to replace Judas, Peter made it clear that an apostle must be one who was with Jesus and one who witnessed the resurrection...(Acts 1:21-22). Also, in arguing for his apostleship, Paul posed the question, ‘Have not I seen Jesus our Lord?’ (1 Cor 9:1)...



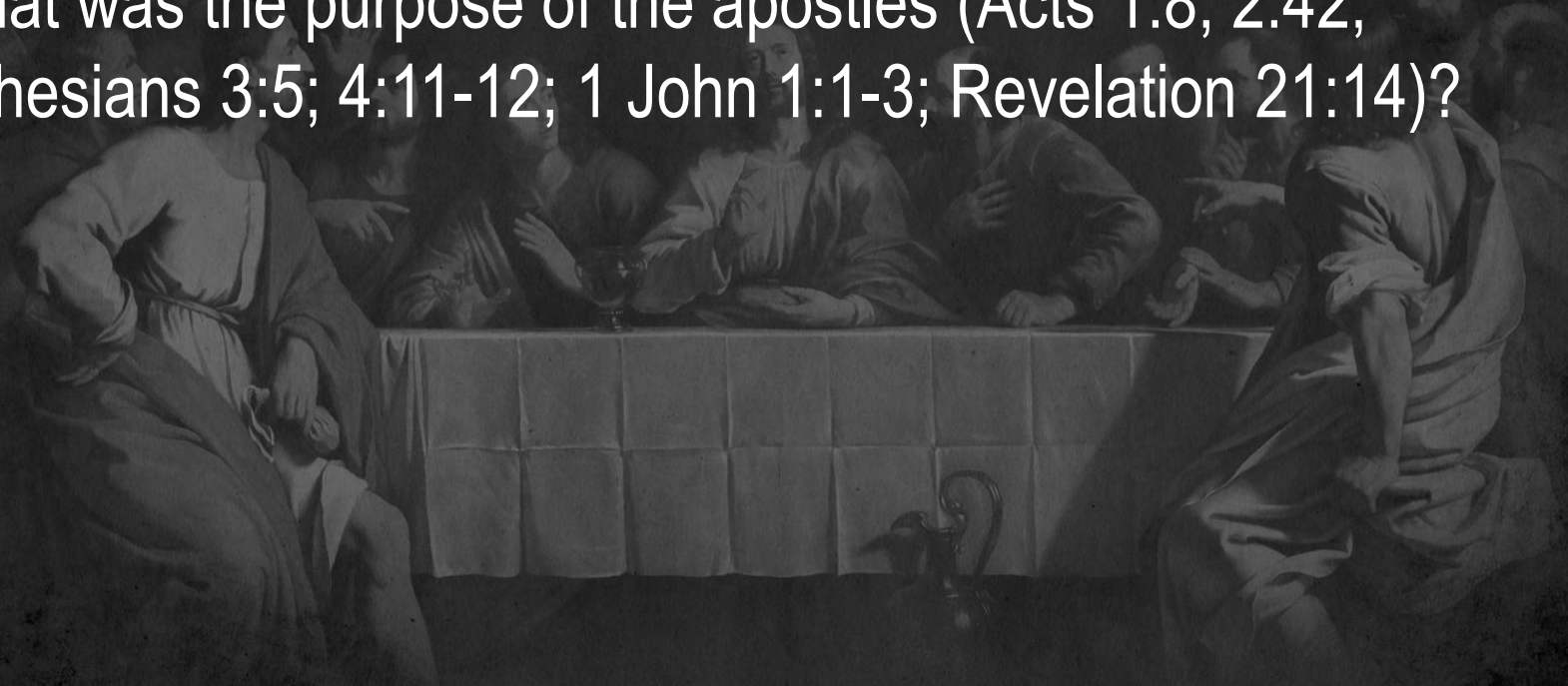
Qualifications of An Apostle

...Some religious groups will claim that there are still apostles today, but clearly from these passages this cannot be the case. A person must have been with Christ and seen Him resurrected to be an apostle” (Nash, Bryan. *Messiah’s Misfits*, p. 3).



Question 4

What was the purpose of the apostles (Acts 1:8; 2:42; Ephesians 3:5; 4:11-12; 1 John 1:1-3; Revelation 21:14)?



Question 5

What does Jesus do the night before He officially selects His apostles (Luke 6:12)?

Into what kind of religious climate, would these men serve (see Luke 6:11)?

What kind of character would they need to have?

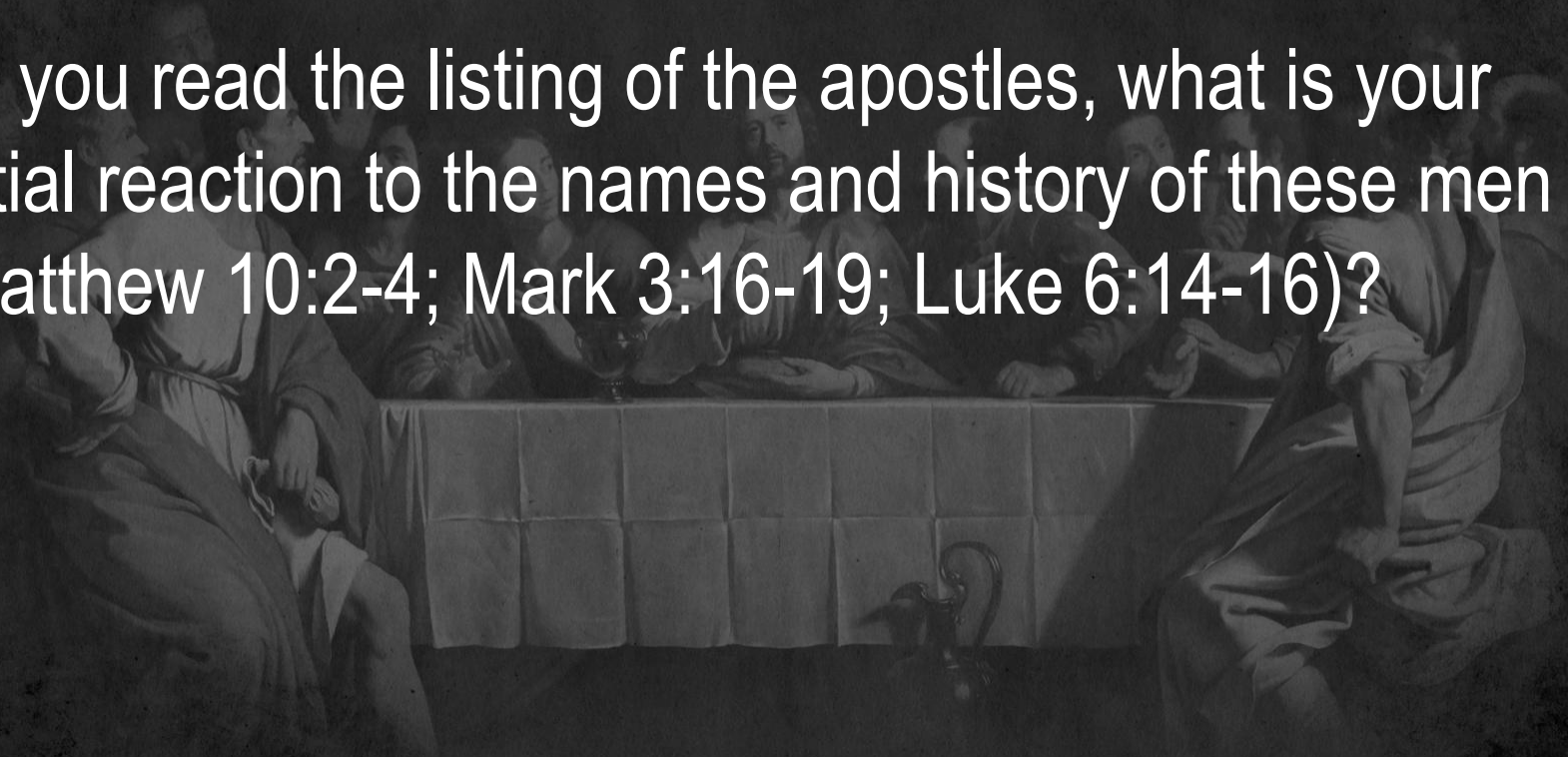
Question 6

We have a children's song about the "calling of the apostles." What does it mean to be "called" by Jesus (Mark 3:13)? Describe the phases of the "calling" of the apostles in the following passages?

- Conversion (John 1:35-51)--
- Ministry (Luke 5:3-11)--
- Apostleship (Luke 6:12-16)--
- Martyrdom (John 21:18-23)—

Question 7

As you read the listing of the apostles, what is your initial reaction to the names and history of these men (Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:14-16)?

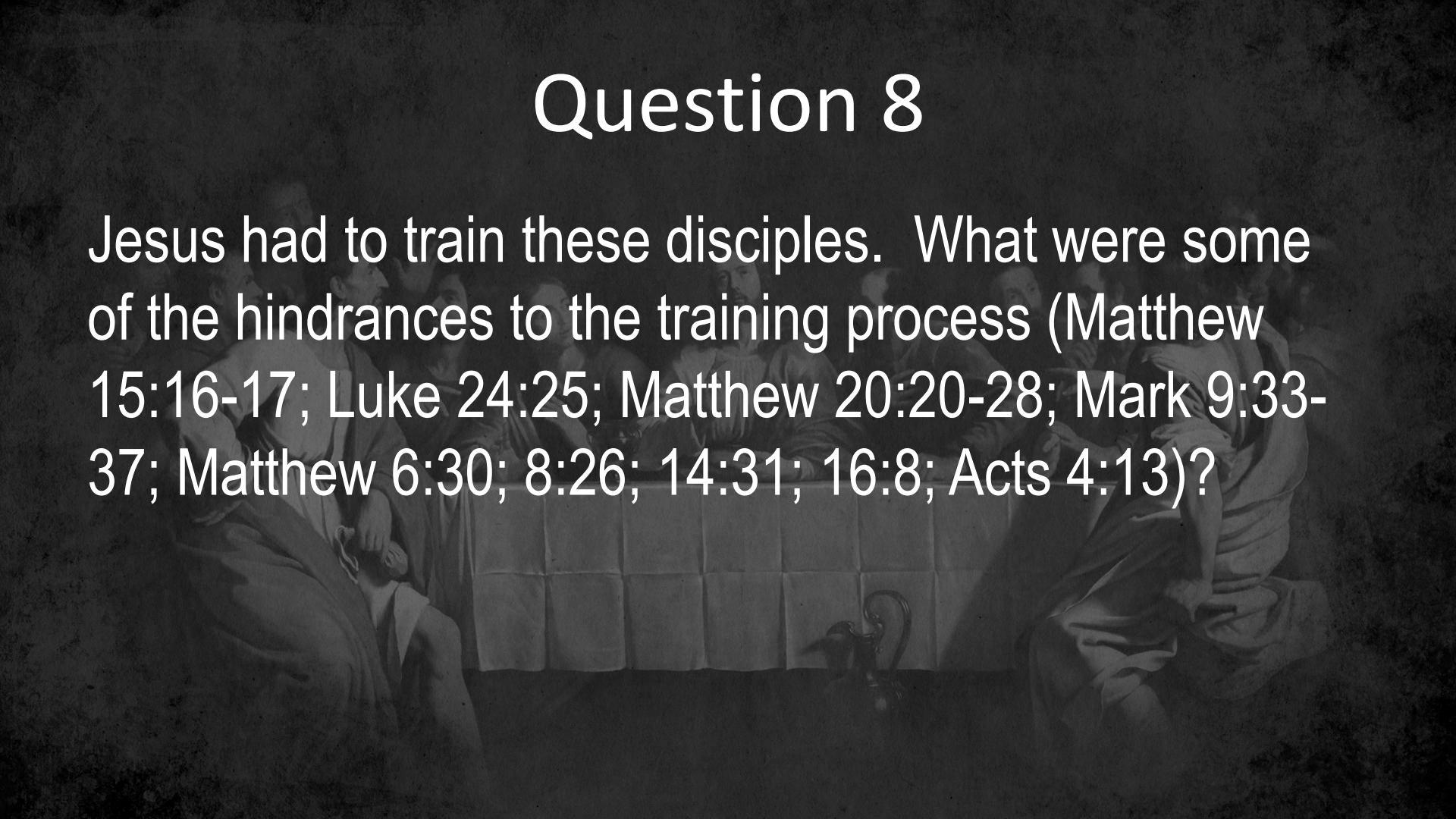


Listings of the Apostles

Matthew 10:1-4	Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:14-16	Acts 1:13
Peter Andrew James John	Peter James John Andrew	Peter Andrew James John	Peter John James Andrew
Philip Bartholomew Thomas Matthew	Philip Bartholomew Matthew Thomas	Philip Bartholomew Matthew Thomas	Philip Thomas Bartholomew Matthew
James Lebbaeus Simon Judas Iscariot	James Thaddeus Simon Judas Iscariot	James Simon Judas Judas Iscariot	James Simon Judas

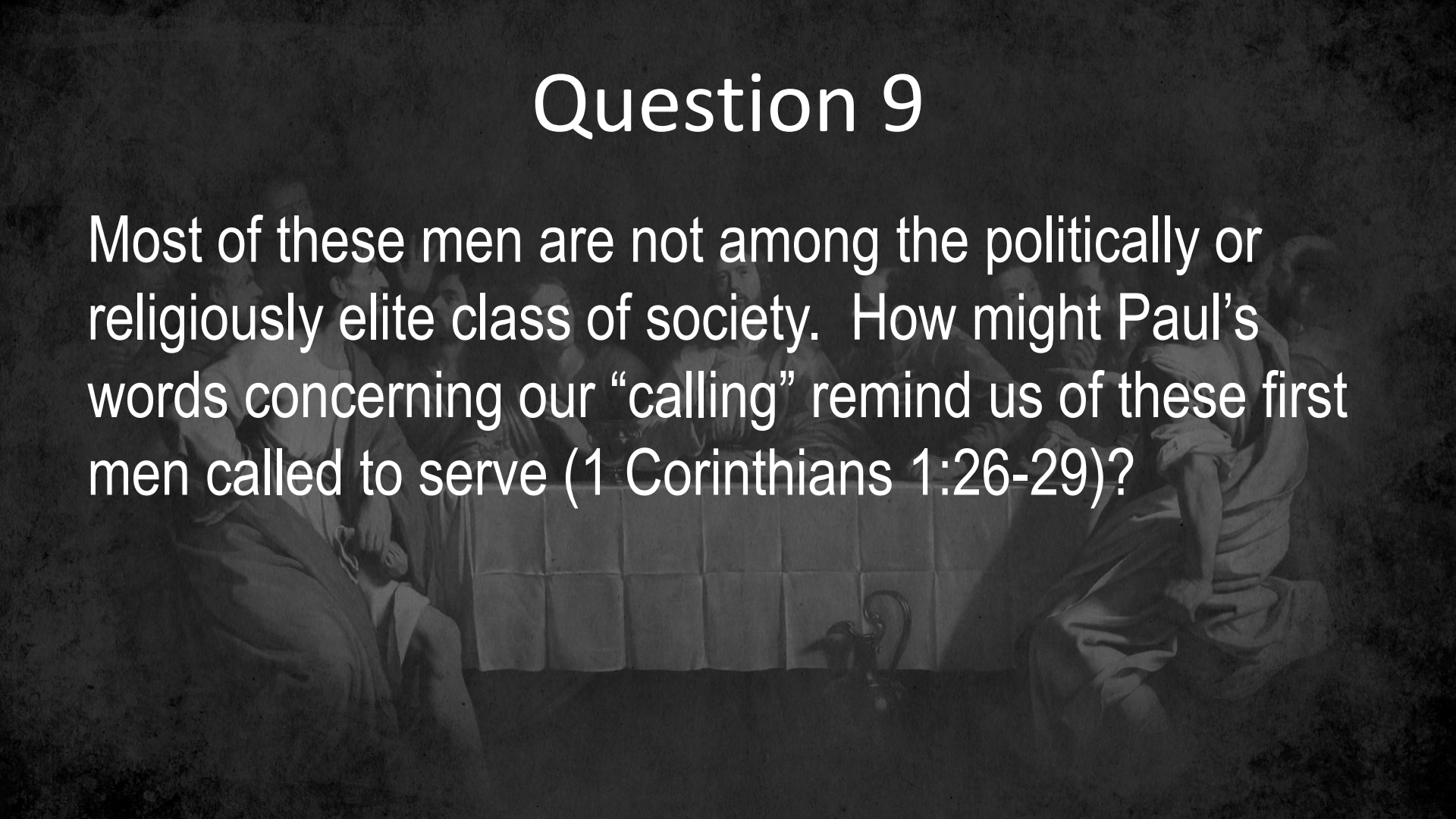
Question 8

Jesus had to train these disciples. What were some of the hindrances to the training process (Matthew 15:16-17; Luke 24:25; Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 9:33-37; Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; Acts 4:13)?



Question 9

Most of these men are not among the politically or religiously elite class of society. How might Paul's words concerning our "calling" remind us of these first men called to serve (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)?



Ordinary Men; Extraordinary Task

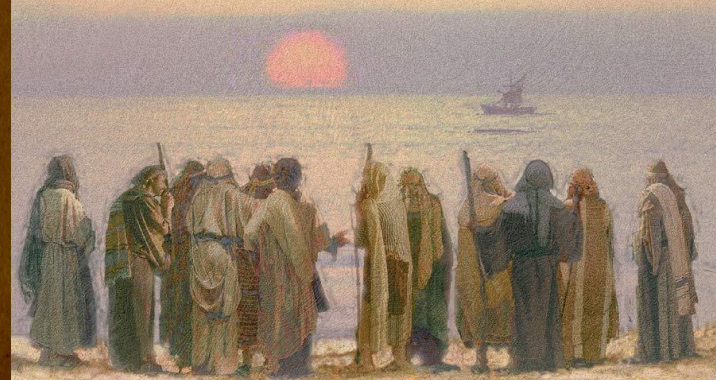
“...they were perfectly ordinary men in every way. Not one of them was renowned for scholarship or great erudition. They had no track record as orators or theologians. In fact, they were outsiders as far as the religious establishment of Jesus’ day was concerned. They were not outstanding because of any natural talents or intellectual abilities...

TWELVE ORDINARY MEN

HOW *the* MASTER

SHAPED HIS DISCIPLES *for* GREATNESS,

and WHAT HE WANTS *to* DO *with* YOU



JOHN MACARTHUR

Ordinary Men; Extraordinary Task

“...On the contrary, they were all too prone to mistakes, misstatements, wrong attitudes, lapses of faith, and bitter failure...Even Jesus remarked that they were slow learners and somewhat spiritually dense (Luke 24:25)” (MacArthur, John. *Twelve Ordinary Men*, p. xii).

TWELVE ORDINARY MEN

HOW *the* MASTER

SHAPED HIS DISCIPLES *for* GREATNESS,

and WHAT HE WANTS *to* DO *with* YOU



JOHN MACARTHUR

Ordinary Men; Extraordinary Task

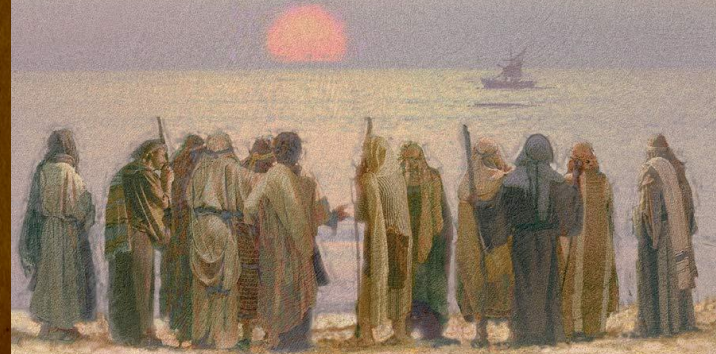
“...They spanned the political spectrum. One was a former Zealot—a radical, determined to overthrow Roman rule. But another had been a tax collector—virtually a traitor to the Jewish nation and in collusion with Rome. At least four, and possibly seven, were fishermen and close friends from Capernaum, probably having known one another from childhood...

TWELVE ORDINARY MEN

HOW *the* MASTER

SHAPED HIS DISCIPLES *for* GREATNESS,

and WHAT HE WANTS *to* DO *with* YOU



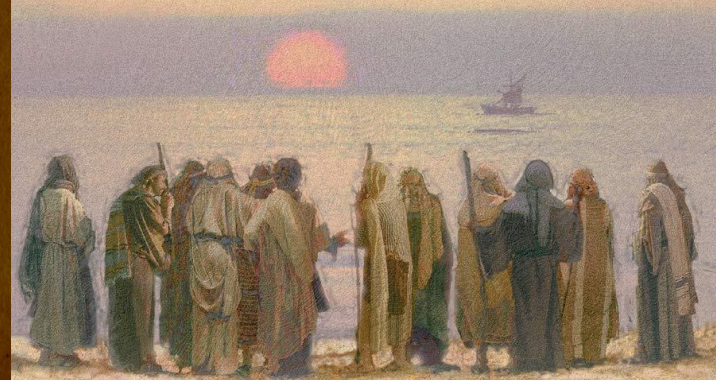
JOHN MACARTHUR

Ordinary Men; Extraordinary Task

...The others must have been tradesmen or craftsmen, but we are not told what they did before becoming followers of Christ. Most of them were from Galilee, an agricultural region at the intersection of trade routes” (MacArthur, John. *Twelve Ordinary Men*, p. xii).

TWELVE ORDINARY MEN

HOW *the* MASTER
SHAPED HIS DISCIPLES *for* GREATNESS,
and WHAT HE WANTS *to DO with* YOU



JOHN MACARTHUR

Ordinary Men; Extraordinary Task

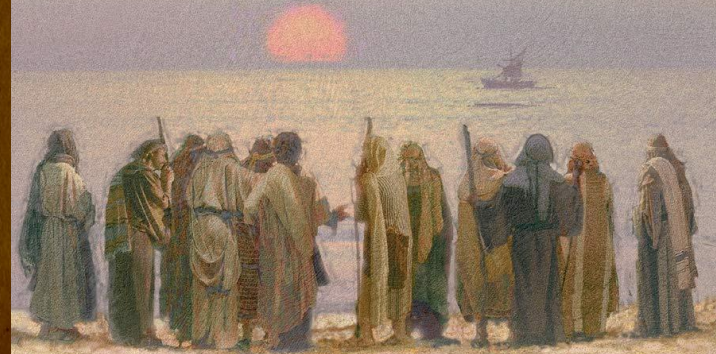
“...Yet with all their faults and character flaws—as remarkably ordinary as they were—these men carried on a ministry after Jesus’ ascension that left an indelible impact on the world. Their ministry continues to influence us even today...

TWELVE ORDINARY MEN

HOW *the* MASTER

SHAPED HIS DISCIPLES *for* GREATNESS,

and WHAT HE WANTS *to* DO *with* YOU



JOHN MACARTHUR

Ordinary Men; Extraordinary Task

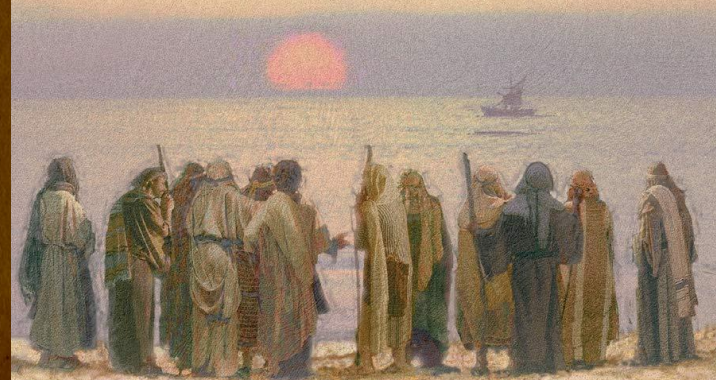
...Ordinary men—people like you and me—became the instruments by which Christ’s message was carried to the ends of the earth. No wonder they are such fascinating characters” (MacArthur, John. *Twelve Ordinary Men*, p. xiii).

TWELVE ORDINARY MEN

HOW *the* MASTER

SHAPED HIS DISCIPLES *for* GREATNESS,

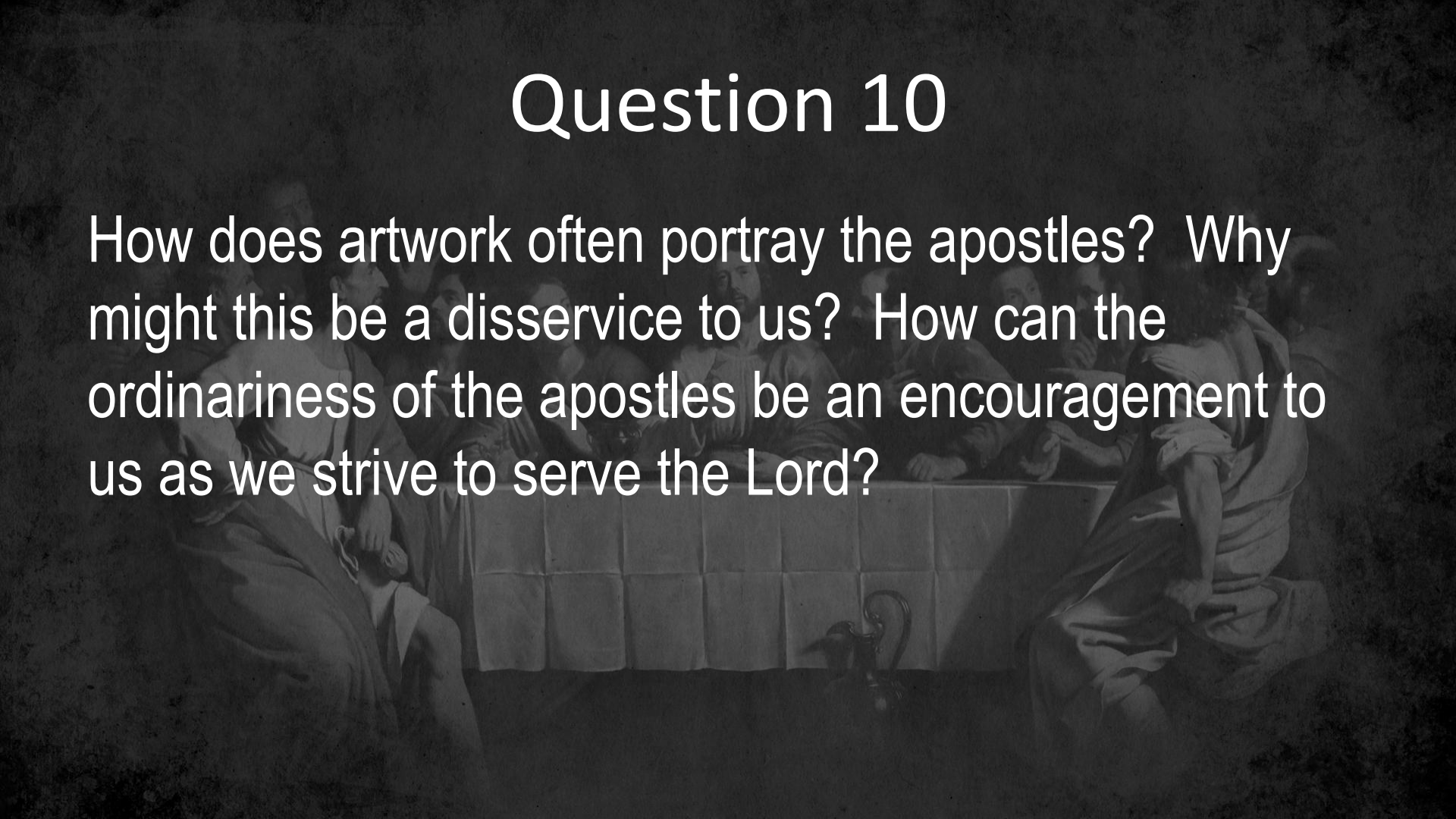
and WHAT HE WANTS *to* DO *with* YOU



JOHN MACARTHUR

Question 10

How does artwork often portray the apostles? Why might this be a disservice to us? How can the ordinariness of the apostles be an encouragement to us as we strive to serve the Lord?



The Men Jesus Chose

The background of the slide is a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper'. It depicts Jesus Christ seated at the center of a long table, surrounded by his twelve apostles. The scene is set in a room with a dark, textured background. Jesus is wearing a blue robe over a pinkish-red tunic. The apostles are shown in various states of shock and confusion, with some pointing and others looking towards Jesus. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the figures against the dark background.

Next week: Lesson 2—*Peter, the Fallible Leader*



GOODBYE

— HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK —

