

soul. Let us remember God's words to the youthful Jeremiah. (Jer. i. 6-9.)

Berean Notes on the Lesson.

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I. GENERAL STATEMENT.

Call of the twelve apostles. Their names, their authority, their mission.

II. TOPICAL AND EXPOSITORY NOTES.

Topic: The call to Gospel work.

1. THE TWELVE MISSIONARY WORKMEN, vers. 1-4. (1.) *The number.* TWELVE. Referring, doubtless, to the twelve patriarchs or tribes of Israel. Matt. xix. 28; Luke x. 1; xxii. 30; Rev. xxi. 12-14. (2.) *Title.* DISCIPLES—*learners*, followers, scholars. APOSTLES—*persons sent forth*, messengers, ambassadors. All plain, unlearned men. First pupils, then preachers. (3.) *Names.* PETER. A stone, rock, John i. 42; Matt. xvi. 18; THE FIRST in this list, and first in all the lists. "A relation of primacy, not of supremacy."—*Wordsworth.* He had no authority over the rest. Matt. xxiii. 8-12; 2 Cor. xii. 11; Gal. ii. 11. ANDREW. Probably resided with Peter. Mark i. 29. JOHN. Johanan—whom *Jehovah bestows*. Christ surnamed John and his brother James, "Sons of Thunder." Mark iii. 17. PHILIP. See John i. 43, 44. BARTHOLOMEW. *Son of Tolmai.* Supposed to be identical with *Nathaniel*, who is "associated with none but apostles," John i. 45; xxi. 2. THOMAS. The Hebrew signifies *twin*, as also does his Greek name, *Didymus*, John xi. 16; xx. 24; xxi. 2. MATTHEW. Called also *Levi*, "the son of Alphaeus," Mark ii. 14; Luke v. 27. He calls himself THE PUBLICAN, tax-gatherer, revenue-officer, (at Capernaum.) JAMES. "Son of Alphaeus," or "Cleopas," Luke xxiv. 18. In Mark xv. 40, "James the Less." He was cousin of Jesus, his mother being a sister of the Virgin Mary. John xix. 25; Luke xxiv. 10. LEBBEUS, surnamed THADDEUS. Mark iii. 18. Called by Luke (vi. 16) "Judas," (Greek form of Judah.) Probably brother of James the Less. Jude 1. SIMON. Contracted from Simeon. CANAANITE—properly Kananite, *Zealot*. In Luke vi. 15; Acts i. 13, "Simon Zelotes." Supposed, probably, to have formerly belonged to the

sect of the Zealots. JUDAS (or Judah, *praised*), son of one "Simon," John vi. 71; xiii. 2. ISCARIOT, *man of Kerioth*, from *ish*, (man,) and *Kerioth*, a small town in the tribe of Judah. Christ had many other disciples. Luke x. 1. Also Paul was "called to be an apostle." Rom. i. 1. (*Illus.* 1.)

2. THE ERRAND OF THE GOSPEL, vers. 5-7. (1.) *Authority* of the heralds. SENT FORTH by the head of the Church. JESUS. COMMANDED, not simply requested. GO. Short, quick, incisive word. Go! with the authority of heaven and the commands of the Almighty! (2.) *To whom sent.* Not then to the GENTILES, that is, nations non-Jewish. In the SAMARITANS "no doubt the heathen element predominated; but there was an intermixture of Israelitish blood." 2 Kings xvii. 24, 28, 29; John iv. 7, 9, 12. THE LOST...OF ISRAEL shall have the Gospel first. Thus God remembers his covenants with Abraham and Jacob. Gen. xvii. 7; xxviii. 13-15. (*Illus.* 2.) But Samaritans and Gentiles soon also heard the Gospel. John iv. 5, 39-41; Luke x. 1; xxiv. 47; Acts i. 8. (3.) *Their chief business.* TO PREACH—to invite, urge, warn the "lost" to come to Jesus. The grandest business of earth. (*Illus.* 3.) THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND. Messiah is come. Leave the kingdom of sin and hell, and become subjects of holiness and heirs of heaven. "This sublime phrase, used in none of the other Gospels, occurs in this peculiarly Jewish Gospel nearly thirty times."

3. THE POWER FROM THE MASTER, ver. 8. HEAL...CLEANSE...CAST OUT DEVILS. Power from God, manifested in attestation of their preaching. (*Illus.* 4.) In Christ's perfect kingdom are no SICK, no LEPERS, no DEVILS. The clause RAISE THE DEAD is wanting in many MSS. "No evidence that the disciples raised any dead person previously to the resurrection of Christ." Matt. x. 1; Luke ix. 6, 10; x. 19, 20. Christ gave them the treasures of his grace and power most FREELY. FREELY GIVE. Christianity wholly UNSELFISH. "Without money and without price." Isa. lv. 1. "Blessed to give." Acts xx. 35.

4. DIRECTIONS FOR THE MISSION, vers. 9-14. (1.) *Preparation.* No GOLD...SILVER...BRASS in PURSES, that is, "belts," in which money was usually kept. Trust in God for all things. Psa. xxxvii. 3; cxv. 1. NOR SCRIP.