**The Calling of the 12 Apostles
by John McGlone 10/23/16**

The Gospels contain records of Jesus calling his disciples that can be very confusing. The key to understanding Jesus’ calling of his disciples is to read all four Gospels, and then we can piece the records together. The four Gospel records we will compare are: Matthew 4:17-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:4-11; and John 1:36-2:2.

***Matt 4:17-22*** *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. 19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. 20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. 21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. 22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him*.

***Mark 1:16-20*** *Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. 17 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. 18 And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him. 19 And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets. 20 And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.*

***Luk 5:4-11*** *Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. 9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: 10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. 11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.*

***Joh 1:36-2:2*** *And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! 37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. :38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? 39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. 42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. 44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. 46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! 48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. 49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. 50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.*

*51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.* ***Joh 2:1-2*** *And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there::2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.*

***Telescoping Literary Device: presents you with a main idea with no explanation, knowing the audience can fill in the surrounding details***

For example, we see in the Gospel accounts the proclamation of Jesus as the Lamb of God by John the Baptist. We see explanations of what happened with little detail in Matt, Mark, Luke, which are telescoped Then John explains much more about the event at the river Jordan by drawing the telescope back and zooming out to see more of the picture.

We have another example of that in Matt 10 where Jesus names/ordains all the Apostles. Up to that point we find only 7 apostles/disciples mentioned being called of Jesus. We know there were many others that were following Jesus’ ministry after He came out of the desert. Matt 10 and the other passages concerning all of the apostles being called are now zoomed out so we can get the details of exactly who/how many are called to be apostles.

***Understanding Events in Light of the Chronology of Callings***

MATTHEW ACCOUNT ***Matt 4:12-22***

1. John the Baptist proclaims Jesus
2. Jesus is Baptized, Holy Spirit descends, Father approves
3. Jesus compelled to the desert for 40 days of battle
4. John the Baptist imprisoned, then Jesus begins His ministry preaching in Galilee, Capernaum, etc
5. Jesus calls Peter/Andrew and James/John from their boats
6. Jesus calls Matthew
7. Some period/events of ministry later all 12 disciples are ordained/named

MARK ACCOUNT ***Mark 1:16-20***

1. John the Baptist proclaims Jesus
2. Jesus is Baptized, Holy Spirit descends, Father approves
3. Jesus IMMEDIATELY compelled to the desert for 40 days of battle
4. John the Baptist imprisoned, then Jesus begins His ministry preaching in Galilee, Capernaum, etc
5. Jesus calls Peter/Andrew and James/John from their boats
6. Jesus calls Matthew
7. Some period/events of ministry later all 12 disciples are ordained/named

LUKE ACCOUNT Luke 3 through 5:4-11

1. John the Baptist proclaims Jesus
2. Jesus is Baptized, Holy Spirit descends, Father approves
3. Jesus compelled to the desert for 40 days of battle
4. John the Baptist imprisoned, then Jesus begins His ministry preaching in Galilee, Capernaum, etc
5. Jesus calls Peter/Andrew and James/John from their boats
6. Jesus calls Matthew
7. Some period/events of ministry later all 12 disciples are named

JOHN ACCOUNT

1. John the Baptist proclaims Jesus
2. 5 Disciples follow/inquire; John, Phillip, Peter, Andrew, Nathanael
3. Jesus is Baptized, Holy Spirit descends, Father approves
4. Jesus compelled to the desert for 40 days of battle
5. John the Baptist imprisoned, then Jesus begins His ministry preaching in Galilee, Capernaum, etc
6. Jesus calls Peter/Andrew and James/John from their boats
7. Some period/events of ministry later all 12 disciples are named

When we read all four Gospels, we see that Peter, Andrew, James, and John knew Jesus. In fact, not only did they know him well, they were already his disciples when he called them from their boats into full time ministry.
> The key to the records in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, is the Gospel of John. Finally, all 12 are called/ordained as Apostles on the mountain after some period of ministry with many ‘disciples’.
>This last calling of these Apostles was associated with a miracle—the catching of such a huge haul of fish that those professional fishermen were amazed.  This must have been of great importance that he disciples would be assured that God would provide for them, and their families’ needs.
*Matthew’s calling during Jesus’ ministry before the final ordination/calling by Jesus of the twelve.*

**I have confirmed that only seven Apostles followed or were called prior to the mountain ordination of all twelve in Matt 10 according to the record; these are:
John (unnamed yet easily presumed), Andrew, Simon Peter, Phillip, Nathanael, James, John, and Matthew**

***Mat 9:9*** *And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.*

***Mar 2:14*** *And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.*

***Luk 5:27-29*** *And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. 28 And he left all, rose up, and followed him. 29 And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.*

Here we see another example of Luke giving us more detail than the other gospel accounts of Matthew’s calling. Jesus went to eat with publicans and sinners at Matthew’s house.

***Mat 10:1-7*** *And having called to him his twelve disciples, he gave to them power over unclean spirits, so as to be casting them out, and to be healing every sickness, and every malady. 2 And of the twelve apostles the names are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax-gatherer; James of Alpheus, and Lebbeus who was surnamed Thaddeus; 4 Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who did also deliver him up.5 These twelve did Jesus send forth, having given command to them, saying, `To the way of the nations go not away, and into a city of the Samaritans go not in, 6 and be going rather unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 `And, going on, proclaim saying that, the reign of the heavens hath come nigh;*

***Mar 3:13-19*** *And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. 14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: 16 And Simon he surnamed Peter; 17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The 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 Canaanite, 19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.*

***Luk 6:12-16*** *And it came to pass in those days, he went forth to the mountain to pray, and was passing the night in the prayer of God, 13 and when it became day, he called near his disciples, and having chosen from them twelve, whom also he named apostles, 14 (Simon, whom also he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, 15 Matthew and Thomas, James of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, 16 Judas of James, and Judas Iscariot, who also became betrayer;)*

I bring this passage to light for the understanding of when John was imprisoned by Herod and Jesus began His public ministry of preaching, healing, etc. I don’t believe it would have been very long between the time Jesus returned from the desert until John was imprisoned. Another period of time before his head would be taken for Herod’s thoughtless statements at a feast.

**Joh 3:22** After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. 23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. 24 For John was not yet cast into prison. 25 Then there arose a question between *some* of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. 26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all *men* come to him.

Matt 14:8-11 and Mar 6:25-28 record the event of John the Baptist’s beheading.
This was some time after he was imprisoned.

***Luk 7:16-23*** *Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people." 17 And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region. 18 Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. 19 And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"* ***7:20*** *When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?' " 21 And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. 22 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. 23 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."*

**CONCLUSIONS: study all accounts of a particular event/s before putting your stake in the ground concerning a certain doctrine/issue/historical event.**