

The World's Team

The strongest, richest, smartest, and prettiest are usually chosen first for the team and other people get left behind. I understand why the team captains choose the players they do. They want those who are the best, who can hit powerfully or run fastest or catch with ease.

Jesus chose His team of disciples; those who would live with Him, help Him, and ultimately, take His message around the world. Now, if I was Jesus, I probably would have chosen the powerful, the important, the amazing speakers, and the high and mighty to be on my team! Of course, Jesus sees deeper. **He chose the lowly, the humble, the outcasts, and the poor to join Him.**

Jesus' Team

Jesus needed a *core group of followers* who would take His message out to the world. He chose twelve men to live and travel with Him and hear all of His teaching.

When Jesus went to the Jordan River He met John the Baptist. John was called "Baptist" because he kept baptizing people, which means he dunked people under water and pulled them out as a sign that they were going to change their sinful ways. John was a bit strange; he wore camel hair, and ate grasshoppers. **Even though he was different, he had a job from God; to prepare people to accept Jesus.** He was doing that, and thousands of people were coming out to hear him and be baptized.

One day, Jesus asked to be baptized by John. John tried to talk him out of it.

- "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said,
- "so why are you coming to me?" (Mt 3.14, NLT).
- John knew that Jesus is God and didn't need to repent. Jesus never sinned.
- "But Jesus said, 'It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.'
- So, John agreed to baptize him." (Mt 3.15, NLT)

Jesus is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit

At the moment that Jesus was baptized we see **all three persons** of the trinity. The Bible says, "As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, 'You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.'" (Mk. 1:10-11).

Just a few weeks after this, Jesus started picking His followers. Andrew, Simon, Philip and Nathaniel all dropped what they were doing and followed Jesus. In fact, that is basically how it went for all twelve of them. Jesus would say, "follow me" and they did. There were no superstars on this list. They were regular men. Actually, some of them were a bit weird. But that represents real life. Jesus didn't go find the successful influencers of the day, he went and found those who represented real people.

Why this matters to you

Jesus' upside-down way of doing things is really important. He didn't choose superstars to be His followers, He chose normal people with normal problems, like you and me. Jesus didn't want to show you some human being trying to be great; He wanted to show you that HE is great. The way the disciples were chosen displays the real nature of God; that **He loves you as you are because He is loving and wonderful.**