

Signs of His Followers

I. Introduction

- A. Luke 6:12-13, 17-19 (NLT) ¹²One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. ¹³At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles. ¹⁷When they came down from the mountain, the disciples stood with Jesus on a large, level area, surrounded by many of his followers and by the crowds. There were people from all over Judea and from Jerusalem and from as far north as the seacoasts of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and Jesus also cast out many evil spirits. ¹⁹Everyone tried to touch him, because healing power went out from him, and he healed everyone.
- B. Luke 9:54 (NLT) When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, "Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?"
- C. Mark 9:38 (NLT) John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn't in our group."
- D. Matthew 22:37-39 (NAS) ³⁷And He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"
- E. John 13:34-35 (NAS) ³⁴"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

II. Signs of His Followers

- A. Everybody's welcome
 - 1. Luke 15:2 (NAS) Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."
 - 2. Luke 6:21 (NAS) "Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh."
 - 3. Matthew 19:21 (NAS) Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
 - 4. "I think that when the poor were overlooked by the priests, the impious Galileans noticed how the poor were being overlooked. And so they devoted themselves to ministry to the poor." (Julian the Apostate)

5. "The ancient world had no clear conception of childhood as we do. And, therefore, if a baby or child wasn't wanted because of its gender, or poverty, or it was sickly or something - - leaving it to die of exposure was normal." (O. M. Bakke)
 6. "At the first onset of the disease of the plague, they pushed the sufferers away and they fled from their dearest, throwing them into the road before they were dead, and treating unburied corpses as dirt." (Dionysius (260 A.D.))
 7. Galatians 3:28 (NAS) *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
- B. Nobody's perfect
1. Matthew 7:1 (NAS) *"Do not judge so that you will not be judged."*
- C. Anything's possible
1. Matthew 19:26b (NAS) *"With God all things are possible."*

III. Conclusion