

**Text:** [Mark 3:13-19](#)  
**Date:** February 10, 2019 – Step In, Step Out, Step Up Campaign 1  
**Title:** “Stepping In & Stepping Out”  
**Theme:** Jesus calls us to step into life with him as disciples so we can step out on his mission as apostles.

## Intro

Last week, we celebrated a huge milestone, the wrapping up of a successful capital campaign  
If you missed it, it was a great day – one I’ll remember for a long time

And if I had told you that today we were starting a stewardship campaign, you probably wouldn’t have come  
So pretend I didn’t tell you that.  
But I promise you, this isn’t going to be too painful!

Goals are important – they’re what keep us moving forward as individuals and as a church  
Having achieved that big goal, now we set another – much smaller – goal  
Here’s the new goal: To make sure we can afford the mortgage!

We’ve worked hard to make it a very manageable thing.  
We only need about 15% of what we’ve been raising annually through the campaign these past 3 years – so it’s not a big stretch  
\$50,000 per year as opposed to \$330,000/year

But honestly, over these next couple weeks, I’m not really too interested in talking about the money – because that’s not what it’s about  
Instead, this week and again on the 24<sup>th</sup>, I want to remind us of the reasons we got into this in the first place –  
I really want to talk about what it means to be the church.

## Question

Was there someone who invited you in to the life of faith?

1

I want you to hear this verse from Mark chapter 3, verse 13  
“He went up the mountain and called to him **those whom he wanted**”  
“he appointed **12 to be** with him”

Have you ever thought about why you're here?  
About why your faith matters to you?  
Why you're part of this church, why you're sitting here this morning?

Jesus called **THESE** 12 – Peter, James, John – even Judas! because he  
**WANTED TO BE WITH THEM**  
Has it ever occurred to you that Jesus called **YOU** because he wanted to  
hang out with **YOU**?

This, to me, is an amazing insight from the scripture  
It's clear there were other disciples, beyond the 12  
I don't know how many, but if you read Mark 1-3 you'll see – it's not just the  
12 who are following Jesus, but a whole bunch of people  
But Jesus couldn't invest in **1000** people or even **100** people – not in a  
personal way – not when he rose from the dead

So he chose 12. 12 people he liked and wanted to hang out with.  
12 people he **WANTED** to get to know.  
And he poured everything he had into them. **EVERYTHING!**

Can you imagine what it must have felt like to be among those he chose?

This was a revelation to me this week – to imagine that Jesus is doing the  
very same thing – right up to today

2

If you define the Church as people who gather together around Jesus, then  
it stands to reason that **the first church ever** was the 12, right?  
Jesus called them to learn from him, and from each other

So this is the first part of what we do  
We gather people **IN** so that God through Jesus Christ can be at work **ON**  
them and **IN** them

This is what we call discipleship  
The process of growth that comes from being in worship, walking with  
others in a small group, understanding the scriptures, developing a  
life of prayer, learning to be generous with our resources  
This is the **LOVING** God part of our mission statement.

### 3

And over time doing that changes us.  
That's the **TRANSFORMATION** part of our mission.  
It's not what **WE** do, but what Jesus does in us when spend enough time  
hanging out with him.

Now, it's hard to see that transformation happening sometimes  
Because it's usually gradual

And also because, when we're gathered here on Sunday morning,  
we don't always get that sense of what God is doing in the lives of the  
people who sit next to us  
Maybe when we share joys and concerns, but that's about it

But this is the beauty of the small group  
Then you have the time to see it, and hear it  
To hear people talking about their faith what it means to them  
Who they are praying for, how they are serving the people around them

And I've had this privilege again over the past few weeks  
As we've led a small group doing our new "Disciple's Path" study  
That Kathleen and Jeneene Reduker and I worked on together

I was reminded again – **NONE** of **US** are here by accident  
We didn't just happen to show up one day  
We're here because Jesus has shown up in our lives somehow, someway  
He called us because he wanted to be with us

## 4

The church exists in part because we need a place to unpack this  
experience of life **WITH** Jesus  
Without people thinking we're crazy

How much time do you think the disciples spent saying, "Guys, listen...If I  
told anyone else what happened today..."  
I love it when someone says, "I know this sounds hard to believe..."  
And everyone else around the circle is saying, "No, I've felt that too...that  
happened to me!"

The church is **FIRST** a place where we are invited to **STEP IN** to a life with  
Jesus  
That's what it means to be a disciple – to be called to live **WITH** Jesus, to  
**BE** with him  
And the church is the place where we do that  
We're trying to re-create what the 12 first experienced

## 5

But it doesn't stop there  
What else does the scripture say?  
"And he appointed 12, whom he also named **APOSTLES**, and to be **SENT**  
**OUT** to proclaim the message, and to have **AUTHORITY** to cast out  
demons."

Literally what it means to be called an apostle is to be "one sent"  
Sent as a representative on behalf of another  
So it's clear that Jesus doesn't just call us, and invest in us, and spend time  
with **US** only for **OUR** benefit

Jesus loves us for us, don't get me wrong  
But Jesus also has a whole world out there that needs loving too  
So he says to the disciples: now that you've spent some time with me,  
**STEP OUT** into **THAT** world

There's a huge temptation to come inside these walls, gather and stay  
To see our faith as just something that helps to make us better people  
There's no doubt that our faith **SHOULD** make us better people – back to  
the idea of a transformed life

But genuine Christian faith eventually has to graduate  
From being all about what Jesus is doing **IN** me  
To being about what Jesus is doing **THROUGH** me **FOR** whom? **OTHERS**  
**THAT'S** what it means to grow to maturity  
To graduate from being a **DISCIPLE** to an **APOSTLE**

Many, many of you are totally there – even if you don't claim it for  
yourselves  
I know it when you talk to me about trying to reach members of your family,  
how you're working to heal old family hurts  
I know it when you say people at work are constantly coming to you and  
saying, "pray for me"  
I know it when you're bringing friends and neighbors with you to church, or  
when you go and find ways to serve people in need all on your own

## 6

### **DISCIPLESHIP** and **APOSTLESHIP**

This is the never ending ebb and flow of life with Jesus  
A cycle that never stops

We come back to him to get refilled, recharged and re-educated  
To have people who believe in us invest in us

And then we get shoved back out into the world as apostles  
Here, Jesus says, "go in my name. Proclaim my message. Cast out  
demons."

Would you agree that there are a lot of demons to be cast out of the world?  
I mean, however you want to understand that – there are a whole lot of  
demons to be stood up to!

Poverty, loneliness, lack of meaning, just plain meanness and hard-  
heartedness and hate  
We could name demons all day! And we've been given authority over **ALL**  
of them

**7**

Jesus invites us to step **IN** to life with him  
So we can step **OUT** to serve him in the world  
We've got to be both apostles **AND** disciples

Because **APOSTLE** who never gets **DISCIPLED** ends up burning out –  
they're doing the work but they don't know why they do it!  
But a **DISCIPLE** who never becomes an **APOSTLE** – they've got a  
different problem  
They've made the whole mission about them!  
And so end up as one of those angry church people who just gives Jesus a  
bad name,  
Who can't get out of **HIS** way so **HE** can be about **HIS** business of saving  
the world

The apostle's job is to invite the next disciple  
We've been given the authority, been sent in his name, to say,  
You know, "Jesus thinks you're pretty ok.  
And he'd like, more than anything, to spend some time with you."

He invites us to **STEP IN** to the life of a disciple,  
so we can **STEP OUT** on the mission as apostles.

Amen.

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