



02 • Different, But United


In [Luke 6:13-16](#), we find:

And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Who were these apostles? Let's consider just a few of them, digging into their backgrounds to see what we can learn...

 **Peter, Andrew, James,** and **John** were fishermen from Galilee ([Matt 4:18-22](#)).

 **Matthew** [also known as [Levi](#)] was a **tax** collector ([Matt 9:9-13](#)).

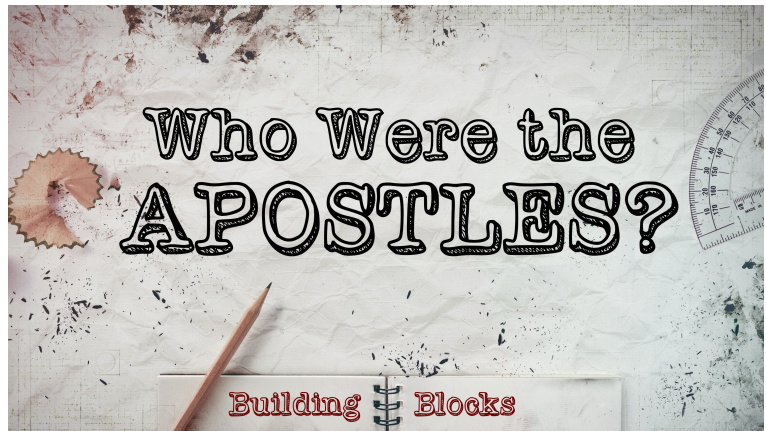
 **Simon** was called "**the Zealot.**" Zealots were political activists who were radically opposed to Rome, often inciting violence in efforts to overthrow Roman rule.



These men would **not** have naturally or easily gotten along with each other. They came from different places, with different backgrounds; they ran in different circles and had different ways of looking at the world. **But what did they have in common?**

Jesus. Jesus' call to follow. Jesus' influence on their lives. They were **very** different, but they grew to be united around Jesus as the Son of God.

What Jesus did in the lives of these men was just the beginning of what he would eventually do in the life of his church ([Eph 1:20-23](#); [2:15-22](#)).



For Class & Family Discussion:

- One of the biggest gaps in the first century was between Jew and Gentile.
 - What were the fundamental differences between these two people groups?
 - What sort of obstacles did those differences present?
 - What vital lesson was learned in [Acts 10:28](#) and [11:18](#)? [Galatians 3:23-28](#) might also be helpful here...
- Two thousand years later, do various differences continue to present obstacles to the gospel and unity among followers of Jesus? If so, what *sort* of differences?
- What must we remember and practice to keep those differences in perspective and maintain unity?
- Let's notice how a few of the other apostles came to follow Jesus. What can we learn from...
 - Philip ([John 1:44-45](#))
 - Nathanael ([John 1:46-51](#))