

3.1.A(14).Lord of House appoints Members. 3:13-21.

Read Mark 3:13-21.

13 And he went up on the mountain and **called to him** those whom **he desired**, and they came to him. ¹⁴ And he **appointed twelve** (whom he also named apostles) so: that they might **be with him** and he might **send them out to preach** ¹⁵ and have **authority** to **cast out demons**. erse:

Background:

Your third stage of development prepares you live together with other disciples in the Family and

Kingdom of God. You may have noticed that the first two stages of growth were personal. As a newborn disciple, you learned to cling to the Lord, the Son of God, for your very spiritual life. You rejected your *dead old life* by repenting of your sins, and you received his life-giving Word by faith. Then, in the *infancy* of your discipleship, you learned to walk with Jesus Mashiach as the *Son of Man*, bonding with him and giving yourself to him to know his *freeing power and rest*. And, you learned of how his power frees those in all types of bondages to the flesh.

Now, in this third stage of growth, you are entering what might be seen as your *childhood*—you are learning to know the Lord *together* with other disciples, relating to each other in unity as members of the Lord's household.

In each of these stages, you may have noticed that the *Lord Mashiach* calls you out of what is old and into what is new, requiring that you let go of, to surrender what is of the past to move forward with Him. So, as a newborn disciple, you had to *let go* of your sin, repenting of it and letting the Lord crucify and put your old life, the flesh, to death. Then, as you began to walk with him, you needed to surrender to him the enslaving things of the world that would deter your *faithful obedience* to him. Perhaps it was a besetting sin, an area of brokenness that held captive your very soul, some spiritual oppression, or even *fleshly religion* that ensnared you to the *rules and customs of* mere men (read Colossians for more on this).

Now that you are accustomed to walking with the Lord and receiving from him life itself, building your life of the foundation of Mashiach himself

(Colossians 2:6-7), you are ready to enter the third stage of discipleship, your spiritual *childhood*.

As you grow spiritually, you develop a sense of responsibility for *self-care*. You know when you are hungry, and you eat. You discern a problem, so you seek the Lord for help. This responsibility over your Self now prepares you to be responsible for others, other members of your family! This *discipleship childhood* is the time when you take your place in the family. You discover your brothers and sisters, your elders and mentors, and you grow not independently but now dependently and together with your other family members!

For, the danger of growth is that right about now, you are learning to care for yourself, so there is a danger that you will care *only for yourself*—that your dependence and contentment in Jesus will lead you to be Self-sufficient, Self-reliant, and

isolated. But, this isolation is not God's will for you.

Jesus Mashiach put it this way:

⁵ I am **the vine**; you are **the branches**.

Whoever **abides in me** and I in him, he it is that bears **much fruit**, for **apart** from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

Notice that when Jesus Mashiach describes himself as the “vine,” he says that he is part of all of his disciples *together*—there is a “corporate” life he shares with his “body,” for, as Paul says: “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27).

To be *in Mashiach* is to “abide” in him (15:5), to live in him, and that means not to live in isolation, like a branch by itself, but to live as a *branch* connected with the other *branches*.

So, imagine your third phase of a disciple as learning to live together and know Jesus together as the Lord of his Household. To live together with other disciples, you will need to let go of your fleshly impulse to live apart and in isolation. Again, this impulse of isolation is at the root of our original fall, for Adam and Eve chose to live apart from the Lord God, independent and Self-ruling. So, you must surrender this spirit of isolation, this Self-rule and selfishness, so that you live humbly, subject to others in the body. As Paul says:

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Philippians 2:3



Focus:

1. Family Called Together: Lord's Heart Desire.
4:13
2. Fellowship Appointed Together: live together.
4:14.
3. Fruitful Purpose: Starts with fellowship with Him
in the Family. 4:15-21

Consider:

1. Family Called Together: Lord's Heart Desire.
4:13

Jesus Mashiach does not just call you personally as a disciple like a shepherd calling you as his sheep by name (John 10:3), but our Lord calls you *together* to know him as part of a family. In Jesus

Mashiach, the entire Kingdom is supported by this spiritual House into which Jesus Mashiach redeems you. So, the Lord Jesus builds his House by gathering his people into *families* taking a variety of forms and configurations. Of course, many families are households which turn to the Lord by faith. But, other “families” may be a gathering of brothers or sisters together, as was the case with the Twelve, who were called to live as a *family of brothers* in the Kingdom, gathered around the Lord Jesus.

For, at the head of every family stands the One who calls us to live together as a family, the Lord of our Household.

So, notice the *strength and bond, the foundation* of each family: “And he went up on the **mountain** and **called to him** those...” (3:13a). The foundation of every family in the Kingdom is

our Lord, who “calls us” to Himself. Hearing His call, obeying His Word together, settles our House on the rock of Jesus Mashiach and His powerful Word (Matthew 7:24).

So, to whatever family the Lord Jesus calls you, be sure that all the members of your family are drawing near to Jesus to obey the Lord’s Word. In that way, you ensure the durability and strength of your house.

Also notice that the Lord’s *very heart* is the depth from which he calls you together as a family, for “He... **called** to him those **whom** he **desired**” (3:13).

As the Twelve heard the call of Jesus and came to him, forming a *family unit* we now know as ‘The Twelve,’ each was there because the Lord “desired” him to be together with these other family members. So, in the deep desires stirring in

the Lord Jesus Mashiach's heart, knowing each member as a shepherd knows his sheep, the Lord builds his family as he wills. And, when he calls you to be part of one or more family units for the Kingdom, the Lord's "call" is also his anointing you with his power to serve your other family members well!

You may be called in your nuclear family as a *parent* to shepherd your children, so his call equips you with power to serve your spouse and children in that way. Or, he may call you to a band of brothers or sisters, to encourage one another and to grow and minister as a family. Or, he may even call you to congregate as a family, as he pours out his specialized gifts that you may thrive as a congregation—a home group, an outreach group, or a gathering of home groups.

So, If you are a family of parents and children, you who are older be sure to feed the Word to the little ones until they can hear and obey for themselves. If you gather as brothers, sisters, or a congregation, there are two ways that you build your house. First, the older ones must share and instruct the Word with the younger ones, like parents feeding their children. Know that the Lord's call on your life also equips you to serve the other family members as part of your call!

Second, brothers to brothers and sisters to sisters are called to partner and share the Word for their up-building and growth. Recognize that each one is progressing as a disciple at their own rate, so help them take the next step.

It is important to note here that families grow, they multiply, and they add family members. Knowing the Lord's call may be to sense His call to

multiply your household into two families, as when a child is sent out to start his or her own household. In this way, the Lord's calling to a family shifts as families become extended families, congregations, and clans.

For, it is no trivial detail that the Lord calls this first family of Twelve to come to him on the "mountain," for mountains in Scriptures often depict great nations and peoples. In this way, this single *family* of Twelve brothers because the great mountain of God's people in the church age.

2. Fellowship Appointed Together: live together.
4:14.

When the Lord called his "Twelve" together as a family unit, he gathered them as a Kingdom Family for two purposes. The first purpose of every Kingdom Family, whether it is this first family of apostles or the final family that comes into the

Kingdom in the times of future Tribulation. The first and key purpose is this: “that they might be with him” (14). That is, Jesus is present as the head of each family, because we must know him together as a family. For, knowing Jesus Mashiach as part of a body protects us from any family member going astray, either growing cold in their love of Jesus or developing a *deviant* view of the Lord. But, knowing him together is a safeguard to ensure the vitality of his presence and work in a family. For, the Word instructs us:

¹⁶ Let the **word of Christ** dwell in you richly, **teaching** and **admonishing** one another in all wisdom, **singing** psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with **thankfulness** in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

Knowing Jesus together and sharing in his presence is the first reason why you gather as a family. The second is that your family is the stronghold, the staging ground to send out its members to testify of the Lord and bring his Kingdom, for he gathered the Twelve that “he might send them out to preach” (14).

As a safe and sheltering place of prayer, the family members support one another as they each go into the world and testify of Jesus Mashiach!

3. Freeing Power: Starts with fellowship with Him in the Family. 4:15-21

Wherever you meet as a family, you establish and claim “holy ground” for the Kingdom. To families, the Lord gives his “authority to cast out demons” (16). Notice that something as powerful as the Lord’s “freeing authority” is not given to individuals but to the disciples *together*. Power in

single hands easily overwhelms, corrupts, or abusive. So, the Lord's authority is given to the family together, that they might together direct the Lord's power as he wills.

Question:

Further Discovery: