

of Nazareth is the Saviour of the world, the Christ of God.

### Not Where but What

Where one was born or where one was reared may condition him to an extent but is not the sole determinant of what one may become. The records are filled with names of people who were reared in a Nazareth atmosphere and situation but who by sheer force of something within, rose above it all and carved a name among the immortals. Because Jesus lived in Nazareth, He lifted the little hamlet and its name

still lives. Men make towns and cities. They do not make men. Mention Detroit and at once you think of Henry Ford. It is not where you were reared but what have you done with your life since you were born.

### Research Readings

Fosdick: The Man from Nazareth, Chapter I, "A Real Man, Not a Myth."

Smith: The Historic Jesus.

Goodspeed: The Life of Jesus, Chapter I, "The Childhood and Youth of Jesus."

### Study IV

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## Jesus Selects the Twelve

Matt. 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19

The ever-widening range of the Master's influence made it needful that he select some helpers out of the many that believed on Him that they might be with Him, see Him at work, hear His special messages and be instructed more fully into the meaning of the kingdom of God. Up to now He had gone about single-handed. There had been no need for an organization. By this time the work had become widely known, His journeys had become longer, the crowds bigger, the need more imperative.

### The Twelve

Why twelve, does the number have any significance? In a good Bible dictionary look up the use of the number twelve beginning with

the sons of Jacob and ending with the gates of the new Jerusalem. Were these twelve perfect men? Were they saints in the light of our present day thinking? Or were they common ordinary men, like the common run of men today?

Did Jesus have any special reason for selecting these above all other men? In what way were they more eminently fitted for the job?

After reading all the references to these men, decide which should be named first. Is there any reason for the following listing of the men? The list taken from Matthew. Simon Peter, Andrew (his brother), James, John (sons of Zebedee two brothers), Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew (the tax collector), James,

Lebbaeus, Simon (2) and Judas Iscariot.

A suggested grouping here as follows may help some: (1) Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John. (2) Philip, Bartholomew or Nathaniel, Thomas and Matthew (Levi). (3) James, the son of Alphaeus, Lebbaeus or Thaddaeus, Judas of James, Simon, the Zealot, Judas of Kerioth (called Iscariot). Get these names fixed in your minds before you begin a study of their character and personality. The first group is the best known, the second group is the next best known and the last group is the least known. A careful diagnosis will show that they run about like church members today. Some well known and ever seen, others fairly known and seldom seen, many faintly known and never seen. They do so little, that they remain unknown.

### The Character and Personality of Peter and Andrew

Peter for some reasons appears to have been the "head man" of the twelve. His name was Simon. Cephas or Peter denoted his character and personality—the rock. He was a forceful and assertive character bordering aggressiveness. He was very impulsive, ready to speak and act without due consideration. Before Paul came into leadership, Peter stood next to Christ in spiritual pep and push. The first 13 chapters of Acts center largely around this rock-character. He had his faults. He was much like a tool called "the monkey wrench" ready for anything that started, walking on the sea, correcting Jesus, speaking right or wrong, fighting with a weapon, denying Christ, cursing, crying bitterly and preaching until thousands were saved. Once he believed anything, it was hard to move him.

Many scholars think that the Gospel of Mark is really the gospel of Peter.

Simon Peter did not get a new set of capacities or abilities when Andrew brought him to Christ which caused Christ to nickname him Peter, he simply used what he had in spite of his moments of weakness. He led a varied and interesting life.

He became one of the "inner three" who saw the intimate glimpses of the divinity of Christ. All through the gospel story, the names of Peter, James and John stand out. Do you not know somebody in your church of this type of personality? They push to the front. They are ever ready to take things over. They love to sit in the "driver's seat and give orders."

In the selection of Peter, Jesus found a great soul. Thirteenth chapter (1-13) of the Acts of the Apostles will give you an insight into the type of person Simon Peter was. Read his two books, study his controversy with Paul, study his sermon on the Day of Pentecost, visit with him to Cornelius' house, and you will see one of the greatest of the twelve at his best.

Andrew leans toward the reserved. He was not a pusher and ready for anything like his brother. He was more manly and weighed matters more carefully. His name means manly. He wrote no books, preached no sermons as far as the record goes. His greatest work was that of a personal worker. He brought Peter to Christ. He found the lad with the fishes. He helped the Greek see Jesus. He played a minor roll in publicity but was a great personal worker. Make a list of all the people you know who are overshadowed by a big brother. There are many little Andrews in