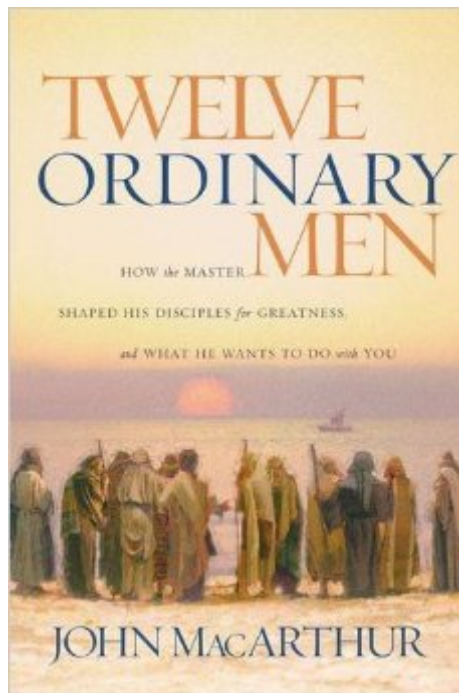


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Twelve Ordinary Men: How The Master Shaped His Disciples For Greatness, And What He Wants To Do With You



Synopsis

Contrary to popular belief, we do not have to be perfect to do God's work. Look no further than the twelve disciples whose many weaknesses are forever preserved throughout the pages of the New Testament. Jesus chose ordinary men - fisherman, tax collectors, political zealots - and turned their weakness into strength, producing greatness from utter uselessness. MacArthur draws principles from Christ's careful, hands-on training of the original twelve disciples for today's modern disciple - you.

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Customer Reviews

OK, name the 12 apostles. Chances are you can't. Disconcerting, no? These twelve, who most Christians think they know, took the teachings of Jesus and changed the world by establishing the Christian church. They were chosen from among hundreds of "disciples" (meaning learners or students) of Jesus to be apostles: "messengers, sent ones". Who were they, why were they chosen, and why were they so successful? It's important to consider who Jesus did NOT select for his inner circle. He chose no rabbis, no scholars, no one from the religious establishment who could have given him an inside track to power and authority. Instead, he picked a ragtag bunch of people who couldn't comprehend the power of God, struggled with their own sins, wrestled with the cost of commitment and too often, to put it plainly, could be quite dense as to what was going on. Jesus taught them Scriptures and theology. He taught them how to pray, forgive, and serve one another with humility, gave them moral instruction, spoke to them of things to come, and used them to heal

the sick and do other miracles. Three of them were given a brief glimpse of His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration. In all, they had about 18 months of training and were then sent out on a mission too vast for any reasonable expectation of success. This book examines everything known about these quite ordinary people who achieved the extraordinary. It's a fresh and delightful read.

I enjoyed John MacArthur's *Twelve Ordinary Men* despite some reaching on his part. The Chapters on Peter, John, and Judas Iscariot were mostly excellent. This is primarily because there is no shortage of information on these men in the Biblical Record. The problem I found was that even with those three and especially with the lesser known Disciples, MacArthur assumes some things that may be true (we cannot know for sure), and then refers back to the assumptions as fact. Despite that issue, there is a ton of good information in this book and it is one that I recommend. Just remember that a lot of the details we won't really know until we meet these men on the other side.

This is the kind of book that reads well in bed at night. It is calm, interesting and generally informational. It is not a classic MacArthur book dealing with a hard-hitting theological issue. In fact, this book is the first one by MacArthur that actually reads into scripture a certain quantity of "dot-connected" conclusions. For example, the personalities of the apostles are described by MacArthur where there is no true description revealed in scripture. The chapter on Peter is fantastic, as is the one on Judas Iscariot. However, MacArthur's treatment of Nathaniel was my favorite.

Very well done. We used it as our textbook for a Wednesday night Bible study. We all, teacher and students alike, felt the book did an excellent job of teaching us about the disciples, why Jesus selected them and how God can use ordinary people for extraordinary purposes.

This is a truly fabulous book! I was always interested in the twelve disciples, and wanted to know more about them. I would watch documentaries and such about the 12 on the history channel, discovery channel, etc. They were all cool and informative, but they didn't give me the information I wanted- so I went to the internet, and found this book. Immediately, I was drawn to this book and ordered it. Well, I've had it for 3 days and I'm already finished. This book knocked my socks off! It takes each disciple and tells about their personality, how they viewed Jesus, how they are presented in the bible, what they did after the resurrection and how each of us can relate them. This book really brought the disciples to life and made me want to meet them now. I can't wait to go to heaven and meet Peter & John. Also, the books take the time to let us know more about the

disciples who a lot of people aren't really familiar with (like Simon the Zealot, James the less, and Bartholomew (Nathaniel)) In the reading, you can almost always see a little bit of you in each of them. I can most identify myself with Thaddeus, or John. Please get this book- You will NOT regret it!!

How the Master shaped His disciples for greatness and what he wants to do with you? That is the question on the cover of *Twelve Ordinary Men*. John MacArthur answers the first part of the question and leaves the second for your own conclusion. He tells how the disciples were called and how Jesus taught them for the remainder of His earthly ministry. The twelve men who were later called by Jesus to be apostles were human beings born as sinners; Scripture well illustrates this point. These men remained sinners and full of human frailty. What makes this work different is how John MacArthur describes the men as individuals based on Scripture and historic information. (Josephus, *Antiquities & War on the Jews* are used as sources also Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*). The author talks of the disciples' former occupations, their temper (James and John as the sons of thunder), and how they came to know Jesus as God and Savior. He brings the humanity out of the men chosen to start God's church.

This book is inspirational, you cannot put it down, I read the entire thing in less than a day. The book gives you a sense that you too are part of the 12; you become a disciple. You learn so many things about the disciples that you yourself become their acquaintances. Highly recommend this book for anyone trying to become more familiar with these great men.

I consider myself to be pretty well versed in the Bible and yet found this compilation of information fascinating and informative. As a matter of fact, I could not put this book down and read it in one day. I was reminded of how obscure some of the 12 were. This book was very inspiring and reiterates that God has only sinners and faulty people to choose from. But who he chooses, he transforms. I highly recommend you read this book.

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