

## The Men the King Chose, Part III

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The King and His Glory / Apostle; Christ; John (son of Zebedee) / Matthew 10:2–4

In Matthew 10:2-4, Matthew deliberately names the twelve men upon whom Christ chose to build His church and advance His Kingdom.

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## Pre-Sermon Comments

### Mark 12:30 LSB

<sup>30</sup> AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’

### Mark 12:31 LSB

<sup>31</sup> “The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

### Philippians 2:1–4 LSB

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy, that you think the same way, by maintaining the same love, being united in spirit, thinking on one purpose, <sup>3</sup> doing nothing from selfish ambition or vain glory, but with humility of mind regarding one another as more important than yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not merely looking out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

### Philippians 2:5–8 LSB

<sup>5</sup> Have this *way of thinking* in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

# Introduction

## **Ephesians 4:15 LSB**

<sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *that is* Christ,

## **John 13:1 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

## Discussion Questions

When you hear the word love, what definitions or ideas do you think most people in our culture assume?

Why do you think Scripture places such a strong emphasis on love as central to the Christian life?

In [Mark 12:30-31](#), how does Jesus define love differently than the way our culture often defines it?

According to [Philippians 2:1-4](#), what attitudes or behaviors undermine genuine Christian love?

How does Christ's humility in [Philippians 2:5-8](#) shape our understanding of what love looks like in action?

Why do you think Paul connects unity, humility, and love so closely in [Philippians 2](#)?

The sermon emphasized that love must be defined by truth. Why is "love without truth" ultimately unloving?

How does [Ephesians 4:15](#) help guard the church from deception and spiritual immaturity?

Can you think of examples where speaking the truth without love caused harm—or where love without truth caused harm?

John refers to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” Why might this sound prideful at first glance?

How does the sermon help us understand John’s statement as humility rather than arrogance?

What does John’s transformation—from a “son of thunder” to the apostle most associated with love—teach us about Christ’s sanctifying work?

Why do you think John, more than the other apostles, was used to write so extensively about love?

The sermon stated that many Christians remain spiritually immature. What are some signs of spiritual immaturity regarding love?

How does learning to speak the truth in love help believers grow toward maturity?

Why is correction motivated by love essential in the life of the church, even when it is uncomfortable?

In what ways have you personally struggled to balance truth and love?

Are there areas in your life where you are tempted to compromise truth in the name of love—or withhold love in the name of truth?

How does John’s understanding of Christ’s love challenge the way you view your own relationship with Christ?

What is one practical way you can demonstrate truth-defined love to another believer this week?

How would our church change if we consistently loved one another with the kind of love Christ showed—and John understood?

## Sermon Text

### **Matthew 10:1-4 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> And summoning His twelve disciples, *Jesus* gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. <sup>2</sup> Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.

## Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 10:2-4](#), Matthew deliberately names the twelve men upon whom Christ chose to build His church and advance His Kingdom:

- **Andrew: A Picture of Christ-Cultivated Faithfulness [Review]**
- **James: A Picture of Sanctified Zeal [Review]**
- **John: A Picture of Transforming Love**
- **Philip: A Picture of Growing Faith**

## Review

### **Peter: A Picture of Christ-Shaped Leadership [Review]**

#### **John 18:10-11 LSB**

<sup>10</sup> Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. <sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"

#### **Luke 22:56-57 LSB**

<sup>56</sup> And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, “This man was with Him too.” <sup>57</sup> But he denied *it*, saying, “Woman, I do not know Him.”

## **Andrew: A Picture of Christ-Cultivated Faithfulness [Review]**

### **John 1:41 LSB**

<sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which translated means Christ).

## **James: A Picture of Sanctified Zeal [Review]**

### **Mark 3:17 LSB**

<sup>17</sup> and James, the *son* of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, “Sons of Thunder”);

### **Acts 12:1–2 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to harm them. <sup>2</sup> And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword.

## **John: A Picture of Transforming Love**

### The Son of Thunder

### **Luke 9:53–54 LSB**

<sup>53</sup> But they did not receive Him, because He was journeying with His face toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”

### **Mark 10:35–37 LSB**

<sup>35</sup> Then James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Jesus, saying to Him, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You.” <sup>36</sup> And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?” <sup>37</sup> And they said to Him, “Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on *Your* left, in Your glory.”

## A Disciple of John the Baptist

### **John 1:35–40 LSB**

<sup>35</sup> On the next day, John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> And the two disciples heard him speak and followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> And when Jesus turned and noticed them following, He said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?” <sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day. It was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John *speak* and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

### **Matthew 4:21–22 LSB**

<sup>21</sup> And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. <sup>22</sup> And immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

## John’s Humility

### **John 13:23 LSB**

<sup>23</sup> There was reclining on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

### **John 21:20 LSB**

<sup>20</sup> Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?”

## His Understanding of the Profound Nature of Christ’s Love

God, who distributes His graces and gifts severally as He pleases, seems to have given John a peculiar insight into the mysteries of the divine love. He takes a particular pleasure in enlarging upon it, and he treats of it in a plain and unartificial style, but yet with such a lofty eloquence as is above the rules

of human art, and can only be ascribed to that Holy Spirit which gave him utterance. ~ Robert Lowth

### **1 John 4:18 LSB**

<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

### **John 19:26–27 LSB**

<sup>26</sup> When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” <sup>27</sup> Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” From that hour the disciple took her into his *home*.

## John Taught Us About Love in His Gospel

### **John 13:23 LSB**

<sup>23</sup> There was reclining on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

### **John 19:26 LSB**

<sup>26</sup> When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”

### **John 21:7 LSB**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped *for work*), and cast himself into the sea.

### **John 21:20–23 LSB**

<sup>20</sup> Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” <sup>21</sup> So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me!” <sup>23</sup> Therefore this saying went out among the brothers that this disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but *only*, “If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you?”

### **John 20:2 LSB**

<sup>2</sup> So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

### **1 Samuel 13:14 LSB**

<sup>14</sup> “But now your kingdom shall not endure. Yahweh has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and Yahweh has appointed him as ruler over His people because you have not kept what Yahweh commanded you.”

### **Acts 13:22 LSB**

<sup>22</sup> “And after He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, about whom He also said, bearing witness, ‘I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.’

By divine grace “the son of thunder” became a son of love. It would seem as if John was superior to Peter and James in courage, and ever remained a veritable “son of thunder” in presenting and pressing his claims upon the Lord, and the Lord’s claims upon men. ~ Herbert Lockyer

## John’s Understanding of Divine Love

### **John 3:16 LSB**

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

### **John 15:9 LSB**

<sup>9</sup> “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.

### **John 17:23–26 LSB**

<sup>23</sup> I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. <sup>24</sup>

“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> “O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; <sup>26</sup>

and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

**John 16:27 LSB**

<sup>27</sup> for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.

**John 1:14 LSB**

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 15:10 LSB**

<sup>10</sup> “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

**Matthew 22:36–40 LSB**

<sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ <sup>38</sup> “This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup> “And the second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ <sup>40</sup> “On these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets.”

## John’s Later Writings

### 1 John

**1 John 2:4–5 LSB**

<sup>4</sup> The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

**1 John 2:6–11 LSB**

<sup>6</sup> the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. <sup>7</sup> Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. <sup>8</sup> On the other hand, I am

writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.<sup>9</sup> The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.<sup>10</sup> The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.<sup>11</sup> But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness blinded his eyes.

### **1 John 5:1-3 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the One who gives *new* birth loves also the one who has been born of Him.<sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do His commandments.<sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

## 2 John

### **2 John 4-6 LSB**

<sup>4</sup> I rejoiced greatly to find *some* of your children walking in truth, just as we received commandment from the Father.<sup>5</sup> Now I ask you, lady, not as though I *were* writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.<sup>6</sup> And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.

## 3 John

### **3 John 1 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

### **3 John 2-4 LSB**

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.<sup>3</sup> For I rejoiced greatly when brothers came and bore witness to your truth, *that is*, how you are walking in truth.<sup>4</sup> I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

## Revelation

### **Revelation 1:5 LSB**

<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—

## Conclusion

### **John 21:18–19 LSB**

<sup>18</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to *go*.” <sup>19</sup> Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me!”

### **John 21:21–23 LSB**

<sup>21</sup> So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me!” <sup>23</sup> Therefore this saying went out among the brothers that this disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but *only*, “If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you?”

### **Revelation 1:9 LSB**

<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance *which are* in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the witness of Jesus.

## Discussion Questions

In one sentence each, summarize what Christ did in the lives of Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

Which of the four apostles do you most naturally relate to right now (Peter, Andrew, James, or John), and why?

In [John 18:10-11](#), what does Peter's sword swing reveal about his instincts? What does Jesus' response reveal about His mission?

In [Luke 22:56-57](#), what do you notice about the setting and the pressure Peter felt? Why do you think this moment exposed him?

The excerpt says, "That was not the end for Peter." What helps believers not be defined by their worst moment?

Where are you most tempted to "fight with the sword"—to use fleshly methods to accomplish spiritual ends?

Where are you most tempted to "slip into the shadows"—fear of people, fear of loss, fear of reputation?

In [John 1:41](#), Andrew immediately brings Peter to Jesus. What does that suggest about his priorities and spiritual reflexes?

The sermon emphasizes Andrew's "quiet" faithfulness. What are common ways we undervalue quiet faithfulness in the church?

Who is one person God has placed near you that you could preach and model the Gospel (through conversation, invitation, prayer, and example)?

What would it look like for you to be consistently faithful in the background for the next 6-12 months?

What is the difference between misplaced zeal and sanctified zeal? How can we tell the difference in ourselves?

James was "largely silent" in the narrative, yet the first martyr ([Acts 12:1-2](#)). What does this teach us about significance in God's kingdom?

In what ways might a Christian's faithful witness "provoke opposition" today (even if not violent persecution)?

What is one area where your zeal needs to be tempered? What is one area where your zeal needs to be strengthened?

In [Luke 9:53–54](#) and [Mark 10:35–37](#), what do you learn about John’s early heart posture? What dangers come with spiritual ambition?

John refers to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” ([John 13:23](#); [21:20](#)). How does the sermon interpret that phrase as humility rather than pride?

The sermon suggests the difference may be our capacity to receive and understand Christ’s love. What typically shrinks your capacity (sin patterns, busyness, shame, unbelief)?

John at the cross: What stands out to you about [John 19:26–27](#)? What does it reveal about Jesus, and what does it reveal about John?

How does [1 John 4:18](#) (“perfect love casts out fear”) challenge the way you respond to fear? What fears are most active in you right now?

The sermon states: “Christ does not shape His servants for the same ending, but He sustains all of them to the end.” What does that mean in practical terms for your life?

Which is more encouraging to you right now: (a) Christ’s power to transform you, or (b) Christ’s commitment to sustain you? Why?

When you hear, “What will be your legacy?” what is your first honest reaction—hope, fear, resistance, motivation? Why?

The sermon says we are not apostles, but Christ is shaping us into useful vessels. What might “useful” look like in your season of life (home, work, church)?

“Faithfulness comes through the crucible of suffering.” What would it mean to “suffer well” biblically (not merely endure, but honor Christ)?

What is one hardship or pressure where you need to yield to God’s hand rather than resist it?

## The Gospel:

### **God**

## **Created and owns everything**

[Gen 1:1](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[Psalm 24:1](#)—*The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.*

## **Is Perfectly Holy**

[1 John 1:5](#)—*This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

[Matt 5:48](#)—*Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

## **Requires perfect obedience to His Law**

[James 2:10](#)—*for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

## **Man**

### **Has broken God's law**

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—*there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

### **Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin**

[Rom. 6:23](#)—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*

### **Cannot save himself by his good works**

[Titus 3:5](#)—*He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*

## **Christ**

### **Came to earth both as God and sinless man**

[Col 2:9](#)—For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form

### **Demonstrated God’s love by dying on the cross to pay sin’s penalty**

[Rom 5:8](#)—But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

### **Rose from the grave and is alive today**

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

### **Sinners**

#### **Must repent of all that dishonors God**

[Isa 55:7](#)—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

[Luke 9:23](#)—if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

#### **Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior**

[Rom 10:9](#)—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

#### **Will you repent and believe in Christ?**

[Acts 17:30](#)—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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## Additional Quotes

If we are going to attribute our sentimental, loose, unjust and unrighteous notions of love to the everlasting Godhead, then we place ourselves in the most precarious position. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**