



### Why did Jesus choose 12 men and 0 women?

**TO FULFIL A SYMBOL!** The reason Jesus chose “males” is the same reason he chose “Jews,” and the same reason he chose “twelve”... **to represent the New Israel!** To fulfil this “type” he *could not* pick slaves, or women, or Gentiles. No other arrangement would convey the same meaning to his audience. So, Jesus intentionally selected 12 Jewish males to lead on a miracle-filled, wilderness journey of divine healing, mountain-top teaching, and conquering of demonic forces. Generations earlier, God himself had guided the 12 tribes of Israel through 40 years of wandering and miracles. **By his choice, Jesus pointed to new Israel, AND he symbolically revealed his own divinity, by placing HIMSELF as the leader of the new Israel, giving new commands, and establishing a new covenant in his own blood!**

Key Term

**“The Twelve”**

Points to Disciples or Tribes ... or Jesus?

#### Spirit-filled servants not dominating leaders

Having 12 male disciples should not prohibit women today from serving Jesus based on God’s giftings! Jesus never called The Twelve “pastors” or even “leaders.” He did call them friends and servants, and he rebuked them for being like Gentiles in their struggle for power (Mark 10:42-45). The Twelve were known as apostles, but so were Paul, Silas, Barnabas, Andronicus and Junia (Rom. 16:7). See the One-Pager, *Can you show me a good Bible example of a woman leading?* But something crucial occurred 50 days after Jesus’ resurrection. Something happened to alter history, to change forever the way that God related to people! What was it?

On the day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter quoted the prophet Joel when he stated in Acts 2:17-18:

*“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.  
<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.”*

Once the Holy Spirit indwelt believers, there was no need to keep “The Twelve” symbol going. The Eleven added one more disciple to replace Judas *before Pentecost*. But later, they did *not* replace James (Acts 12:1-2) or others as they died. A new chapter dawned, and the early Church had a bigger vision than “twelve, Jewish, male” disciples!

#### Disciples of ALL nations, Priesthood of ALL believers

Initially, Jesus came to the Jewish nation and all disciples were Jewish. But the Great Commission and Pentecost changed it all! Disciples are now from ALL nations, to ALL nations as the Holy Spirit empowers the Church. Previously, the priesthood was limited to Levitical males; now in Christ, all believers are priests (1 Peter 2:4-5).

**“The Twelve” symbolism is fulfilled. Let us now disciple all nations, since we are “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation!”**

#### Conclusion

**Jesus chose 12 Jewish males to fulfil a symbol, pointing to the new Israel... and to Jesus as the Leader (God)! Now, post-Pentecost, it is a new day. Now the Holy Spirit indwells all believers. Now no one should be disqualified from serving Jesus - whether slave or free, Jew or Gentile, male or female.**

4 Crucial Questions

1. What does this teach us about **GOD**?
2. What does this teach us about **PEOPLE**?
3. What command should I **OBEY**?
4. With whom can I **SHARE** this?