

1. Are we told that the twelve apostles have any special qualifications such as noble birth or spiritual attainments? Why are they chosen by the Lord?
2. Verse 14 lists the purposes for which Jesus has called the twelve. What are they and what might be modern equivalents in the Christian's calling?
3. What is another name for Matthew? for Thaddaeus?
4. What makes Jesus's family think He is mentally unhinged?

Parallels in other gospels:

Choosing of the twelve apostles:
Luke 6:12-16

Beelzebub

Beelzebub is the Greek version of Baal Zebub, or Lord of the Flies. This was possibly a mocking variant of the term used by worshipers of Baal, Baal Zebul meaning "Baal the prince." Baal itself means "lord," and was applied to a variety of idols in Bible lands. This passage makes clear that Beelzebub refers to the prince of all idols, Satan himself.