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Galen Smith Supporter Retired from Multnomah Bible College and Biblical Seminary It is difficult to venture a guess at why things happen, but it can be even harder to speculate why something doesn't happen. Since Scripture does not tell us directly why there is no mention Jesus baptizing the twelve, the best we can do is to understand possible answers, and choose the one that makes the most sense to us. But in such cases we do well to hold our view tentatively, and not dogmatically. The practice of baptism in water was common in many eastern religions at that time. Its most common significance was to initiate the one baptized into the religion. The Jews used the rite both for converts to Judaism, as well as in some ritual cleansings. The Essenes in the Qumran community also practiced ritual baptisms, and some of their baptismal tanks are still visible, carved into the rock. John the Baptist practiced a "baptism of repentance" (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; Acts 13:24), and it instructed "the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus" (Acts 19:4). John the Baptist had disciples who learned from and worked with him, and we know that at least one of them, Andrew, later became a disciple of Jesus (John 1:35-42). Though Scripture is silent on this, it is possible that some of the other disciples of Jesus had also been familiar with, and perhaps baptized by, John. We know little about the nature of the baptism performed by Jesus' disciples on his authority. Christian baptism did not begin until after the death and resurrection of Christ (which is portrayed in the act of immersion [Romans 6:3-5]). Since both John's and Jesus' preaching emphasized the Kingdom of God, it is reasonable to assume Jesus' baptism also paralleled John's in being a baptism of repentance. If this is the case, then any of his followers who were already baptized by John would not need to be baptized again by Jesus. Later, after Jesus had ascended back to the Father, he baptized those who believed in him "with the Holy Spirit" (John 1:33). This spiritual baptism now takes place for every believer at the time of their conversion, and is depicted when they are baptized in water. So, returning to the question of why the Bible is silent on baptizing the twelve, there are several points we might humbly suggest: 1. It is possible they were already baptized by John, and re-baptism was not necessary. 2. Perhaps he wanted to differentiate between himself and John. John was a servant, and did most of his own baptizing. Jesus, the Master, delegated this task to his twelve men. 3. Allowing his disciples to baptize would be a way of honoring them, and training them for part of their task in fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). 4. Allowing his followers to baptize might free Jesus to focus more on teaching and preaching, which they were not yet ready to do. Paul followed a similar practice in his ministry (1 Corinthians 1:14-17). 5. If Jesus had done some of the baptizing himself, there could easily arise jealousy ("I wish Jesus had baptized me") or arrogance ("You were only baptized by an Apostle, but I was baptized by Jesus"). 6. It is possible that Jesus did baptize the twelve, and Scripture simply does not mention it, nor tell us why it doesn't. I hope these thoughts are of some help, Philip. Community answers are sorted based on votes. The higher the vote, the further up an answer is. Add your Answer All answers are REVIEWED and MODERATED. Please ensure your answer MEETS all our guidelines. What makes a good answer? ▼ A good answer provides new insight and perspective. Here are guidelines to help facilitate a meaningful learning experience for everyone. Adhere to the eBible Statement of Faith. Your answer should be complete and stand-alone. Include supporting arguments, and scripture references if possible. Seek to answer the "why". Adhere to a proper tone and spirit of love and understanding. For more info see The Complete Guide to eBible See Default • Questions Only • Unanswered • Everything Answer by Leslie Coutinho Supporter Genesis 14:18: And Mel-chiz'-dek king of Sa'-lem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. This was the land of the... Answer by Ezekiel Kimosop Supporter What Did Paul mean when he said he had fought the good fight? In concluding his exhortation to Timothy, Paul states in 2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought the good... Question by Anonymous Psalm 31:20 You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence From the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion From the strife of ... Question by Anonymous Psalms 141:3: Take control of what I say, O Lord , and guard my lips. 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For more info see The Complete Guide to eBible 5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. ' 14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.