

The Choosing of the Twelve

Jesus Was Intentional About Spending Time in Prayer

Luke 6:12

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

1) Jesus carved out a place and a time, and had an expectation of hearing

- Jesus went to a mountainside - He found a **PLACE** to PRAY [do you have a place?]
- He spent the night - He took the **TIME** to PRAY
- Praying TO GOD - He had an **expectation of hearing**

2) Jesus made spending time with His Father a habit or custom

- Luk 5:16 But Jesus **often withdrew** to lonely places and prayed.
 - The Greek word pair translating "**withdraw**" uses the imperfect tense which suggests ***a continually recurring action or an established habit***

3) Jesus made spending time with the Father intentional - a priority

- Matthew 14:21-23 KJV And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children. (22) And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. (23) And when he had sent the multitudes away, **he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.**
 - He constrained the disciples get into a ship
 - He sent the multitudes away
 - He was alone on the mountain to pray

Why we need times of solitary prayer

1) To keep us grounded in reality - in order to avoid pride

- Luke 5:15-16 But ***so much the more went there a fame*** abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. (16) And **he withdrew** himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

2) To help focus our purposes and priorities

- Mark 1:35 And in the morning, ***rising up a great while before day***, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and ***there prayed.*** (36) And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. (37) And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee. (38) And he said unto them, ***Let us go into the next towns***, that I may preach there also: for ***therefore came I forth.***

3) To remind us the work is the LORD's - to rest in Him - to rely on Him

- Mark 6:30-32 KJV And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. (31) And he said unto them, **Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while:** for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. (32) And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.

4) To receive His guidance when making decisions

- Luke 6:12-13 KJV And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and **continued all night in prayer to God.** (13) And when it was day, **he called** unto him his disciples: and of them **he chose twelve**, whom also he **named** apostles;

The Choosing of the Twelve

Luke 6:13 KJV

And when it was day, **he called** unto him his disciples: and of them **he chose twelve**, whom also he **named** apostles;

It was an important decision - He was choosing men:

- Who would carry on His work - **chosen for mission**
- Who would take the gospel to all nations - **Including the Gentiles**
- Who would be **foundation stones for the church**
- Who would not deny the faith - **even in the face of martyrdom**

Luke 6:14

Those He Chose

Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, 15 Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, 16 Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. 17 He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, 18 who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, 19 and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

But they had issues - They were not perfect

These were ordinary men (*4 fishermen, and a tax collector - the others we are not sure*)

They lacked faith

- Mat 8:23-26 KJV [*in the boat on the storm at sea*] ... **Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?** Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.
- Mat 14:28-31 KJV [*Peter walking on the water*] ... O thou of little faith, **wherefore didst thou doubt?**
- Mat 16:8 KJV - [*beware of the leaven of the Pharisees*]... **O ye of little faith**, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

Some doubted til the very end

- Mat 28:16-17 KJV Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: **but some doubted.**

They wanted to call down fire from heaven

- Luk 9:54-55 KJV ... But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, **Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.**

They wanted to keep the little children away

- Luk 18:15-16 KJV ... 16 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and **forbid them not:** for of such is the kingdom of God.

They argued about who was the greatest

- Mar 9:33-34 KJV And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, **What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?** 34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.
- Luk 22:24 KJV And **there was also a strife among them**, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

They vied for position

- Mat 20:20-24 KJV Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. 21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, **Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.**to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father. 24 And **when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.**

The Genius Of His Choosing

1) That there would be no room for human glory - the Glory would Go To HIM

- 1Co 1:26-29 KJV For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But **God hath chosen** the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and **God hath chosen** the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, **hath God chosen**, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 **That no flesh should glory in his presence.**
- The thing we think disqualifies us ACTUALLY QUALIFIES us
- He CHOSE the **foolish**
- He CHOSE the **weak**
- He CHOSE the **base things** of the world
- He CHOSE things that are **despised**

2) That the focus of our glory would be centered in KNOWING HIM

Jer 9:23-24 KJV Thus saith the LORD, Let not the **wise** man glory in his wisdom, neither let the **mighty man** glory in his might, let not the **rich man** glory in his riches: 24 **But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me**, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

- **GLORY** - A primitive root; *to be clear* (originally of sound, but usually of color); to *shine*; hence *to make a show*; to *boast*; and thus to *be (clamorously) foolish*; to *rave*; causatively to *celebrate*; also to *stultify*:

3) That Our Weakness Becomes The Pathway for HIS Strength

- 2Co 12:9-10 KJV And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong.**

1) He chose them

Joh 15:16 KJV Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, **and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit**, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

2) He empowered them

Act 1:2 KJV Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

- **Don't go until you receive power from on high**

Their testimony among the unbeliever

1) They Recognized they spent time with Jesus

- Act 4:13 KJV Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and **they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.**

2) They Filled Jerusalem With Their Doctrine

- Act 5:28 KJV Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, **ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine**, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

3) They Turned the world upside down

- Act 17:6 KJV And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have **turned the world upside down** are come hither also;

4) They did not deny the faith even in the face of Martyrdom

- Simon (whom He named Peter) crucified upside down
- Andrew (Peter's brother) crucified on X shaped cross (Brother of peter)
- James (brother of John) beheaded
- John (brother of James) exiled died of old age (brother of James)
- Philip crucified
- Bartholomew (aka Nathanael) beaten then crucified
- Matthew speared to death
- Thomas speared to death
- James (Son of Alphaeus) stoned to death
- Simon (who was called the Zealot) crucified
- Judas son of James (aka Thaddaeus) stoned to death
 - Source Foxes Book of Martyrs

Jesus made a great decision when he chose you

- Prayer for those who feel inadequate, unworthy, incapable