

JESUS CHOOSES THE TWELVE

(Luke 6:12-16)

What is it about Jesus that impresses you the most when you read the Gospels? Perhaps it is His powerful teaching and preaching? Perhaps His ability to do the miraculous: walking on water, feeding the thousands, raising the dead, or healing all the sick who came to Him? May be it is His courage, His purity, His desire to please the Father? All of these are wonderful, but they are not what most impressed His disciples.

Jesus' prayer life most impressed His disciples. His life was saturated in prayer. He communed with the Father in a way that they knew nothing about. No wonder the only thing the disciples asked Him to teach them was... "Lord teach us how to pray." In our too busy day, probably we need this more than ever!!!

TWO OBSERVATIONS OF JESUS' PRAYER LIFE INSTRUCTING US TO GIVE OURSELVES TO PRAYER. We are never more like Jesus than when we get on our knees...

I. Jesus Prepares For This Important Selection Through Prayer. (v.12)

We are never prepared for much if we have not first prayed to our Heavenly Father.

A. Jesus finds a private place and spends the whole night praying. "up all night"

1. His prayer was private, fervent, and dependent...upon the will of the Father.
2. From this we learn that prayer comes first! If He felt the need to begin His mission, His decision making with prayer, how much more should we feel this need?
3. This prayer that preceded the choice of the 12 was an often repeated pattern for the church when making key decisions. (Acts 6:6; 13:2-3; 14:23)

B. The prayer life of Jesus teaches us so very much. It should move us to follow Him in this.

1. His posture in prayer: standing, kneeling, and on His face. "Posture is not everything but it is something."
2. The occasion of His prayers: Luke records 9 occasions when Jesus prayed: His baptism, 3:21; after day of miracles, 5:15-16; before choosing 12, before prediction of His death, 9:18; Mt. of Transfiguration, 9:29; before teaching disciples how to pray, 11:1; when 70 returned with their report, 10:21; Gethsemane, 22:39-46; and on the cross, 23:34,46.
3. Jesus prayed: In the morning and the evening, before great crises, before and after great achievements, when feeling great pressure of the work, great sorrows were met in prayer(Matt 26:36-46). Jesus died praying. His last utterance was one of trustful prayer. (Luke 23:46) "The habit of a lifetime cannot be quenched even in the hour of..."

