

Luke 6 pt 2 vs. 12-19

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. ¹³ And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: ¹⁴ Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; ¹⁵ Matthew and Thomas; James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; ¹⁶ Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.

¹⁷ And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, ¹⁸ as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. ¹⁹ And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed *them* all.

Luke 6 begins with Jesus and the Sabbath; Picking grain and healing

I. Mountain where Jesus prayed

II. Men Jesus chose

III. Multitudes Jesus healed

I. Mountain where Jesus prayed

1. Jesus went to the mountainside to pray
 - 1) In the OT psalms mountains are places of safety, [and] strength...
 - i. Stability & solitude
 - 2) [Often]... associated with... [God's] presence (**Uteley**)
 - i. When God spoke with Moses; it was on a mountain
 - ii. When Elijah spoke with God; it was on a mountain
 - iii. When Jesus was transfigured; it was on a high mountain
 - 3) **Jesus going on the mountain speaks of a couple of things**
 - i. Going to a place of solitude to be alone
 1. A place where the noise of the world is hushed
 - ii. Going higher than the problems to get God's perspective
 1. Our human perspective is limited; God is without limits

4) **More than any other writer, Luke speaks of Jesus praying**

- i. Prayer is a 2 way dialogue between God and us
- ii. It's much like 2 close people conversing regularly
 - 1. That's a sign of a healthy relationship
 - 2. If a husband tells me he hasn't spoken to his wife in 2 weeks...
 - a. It leaves a big question mark on that relationship
 - b. A healthy relationship is more than being cordial
- iii. Jesus is communicating regularly with the Father
 - 1. It's obvious to His followers
 - a. Teach us to pray
 - 2. He often leaves the crowd to find a quiet place
 - 3. A place to speak with the Father
 - a. Capture His heart
 - b. Express love to God
 - c. Get direction
- iv. Prayer is not simply asking God for a list of things and walking away
- v. Prayer is sitting in the presence of God and reflecting on Him
 - 1. Getting alone in privacy and communion
 - 2. Much like 2 on a date, quiet private moments are important

- 5) The more important the issue to discuss, the longer it takes
 - i. In our relationships with others
 - 1. Sometimes being brief at times is appropriate
 - 2. Some issues require more time (or even being confidential)
 - 3. Perhaps requiring several hours of working through an important issue

- 6) Jesus was having one of those long important issues that He needed time with the Father to capture His heart
 - i. He spends the entire night in prayer before selecting 12 Apostles

 - ii. If anyone already had the mind of God on any issue, it's Jesus

1. He's free from sin

- a. He's certain of His calling
 - i. He's anointed and His ministry is growing
 - 1. He's in a great place

2. He's teaching us by example

- a. The more important or critical the issue, the more you spend in prayer until you have absolute assurance of God's perfect will

- b. Selecting His Apostles to carry on after Him is critical

- c. They would be the ones who would preach, teach and reach the lost after He leaves

- d. This is very important

- 7) As believers, we are to have our communion time with God on a regular basis

8) When it comes to critical issues, we are to pray and continue in prayer until we have the answer we need

i. Selecting a spouse is important

1. It affects the rest of your life
2. Someone who may help you draw closer to God

ii. Selecting a career

1. You are designed a certain way with specific gifts & talents

iii. Considerations for ministry

1. All of these and more are very important life changing issues.

9) Before any of these important issues arise, we need to practice prayer on a regular basis

- i. It's impossible to go from not knowing how to pray to spending long hours in prayer
- ii. Early African converts to Christianity were earnest and regular in private devotions. Each one reportedly had a separate spot in the thicket where he would pour out his heart to God. Over time the paths to these places became well worn. As a result, if one of these believers began to neglect prayer, it was soon apparent to the others. They would kindly remind the negligent one, "Brother, the grass grows on your path."

10) **EM Bounds:** What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use--men of prayer, men mighty in prayer.

II. Men Jesus chose

1) 12 Apostles are chosen of the many followers

- i. Apostle is a sent one
- ii. Hand selected and sent on a message with authority
- iii. They were called into the ministry of our Lord
- iv. When people are called into ministry, they are called from something to something
- v. **1 Peter 2:9** ... called you out of darkness into His marvelous light

1. Simon – hearer, Reed
2. Andrew - Manly
3. James – (Jacob) deceiver
4. John - God is a gracious giver
5. Philip – Lover of horses
6. Bartholomew (Nathaniel) – son of Talmai (furrow) groove in the ground / Nath. Gift of God
7. Thomas (didymas) - twin
8. Matthew (Levi) – gift of Jehovah
9. James – (Jacob) deceiver
10. Jude (Lebbaeus) (Thaddaeus), – a man of heart
11. Simon the Canaanite (zealot) - hearer , Reed
12. Judas Iscariot – he shall be praised

1) These 12 were not the "A" list in religion

- i. They were not trained in the Law or active in the Temple
- ii. They didn't have political power or connections
- iii. They were not more advanced in their abilities or skills
- iv. Actually: They lacked the basics needed to be a follower of Jesus

1. Without understanding
2. Without humility

3. Without faith
4. Without commitment (**MacArthur**)

v. Throughout the Gospels, the 12 didn't understand what Jesus was saying

1. They were constantly fighting about who was the first, the best...
2. They lacked faith on many occasions
3. They forsook the ministry more than once

a. Not exactly the cream of the crop

13. Jesus called them to be His disciples

14. A disciple is a student, but not in a classroom and lecture sense

- 1) A disciple was an apprentice and learned from the master firsthand
- 2) A disciple learns by being with and hearing from his master
 - i. These 12 had their struggles like everyone else
- 3) In this group:
 - i. There are brothers (James and John, Peter and Andrew);
 - ii. business associates (Peter, James, and John were all fishermen);
 - iii. political opponents (Matthew, tax collector, and Simon, the zealot);
 - iv. and one who would betray Jesus (Judas Iscariot)

15. Why did Jesus choose Judas knowing the outcome?

- 1) A man once asked a theologian, "Why did Jesus choose Judas Iscariot to be his disciple?" The teacher replied, "I don't know, but I have an even harder question: Why did Jesus choose me?"

16. Why did God choose these guys to reach the world?

1) He had to begin with someone

2) **Jesus saw their potential, not their current condition**

17. **1 Cor 1:26** For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong

18. He recognizes what we will be, not what we are today

1) This gives us hope

19. He called them to be with Him

1) To learn from being around Him.

2) As disciples, we will only be as useful to Jesus to the extent that we have "been with" Him.

i. This is where transformation happens

ii. Things didn't change for them overnight

iii. It was a slow but steady progress into the Christ - like life God intended

iv. They turned the world upside down

1) **Simon – Peter** / spokesman.

i. Evangelist primarily to the Jews, crucified upside-down

2) **Andrew** – Originally a disciples of John the Baptist,

i. preached in Greece and Asia Minor. Crucified

3) **James** – Sons of Thunder, wanted to call fire down from heaven

i. preached in Jerusalem and beheaded by Herod in AD. 44

- 4) **John** – wanted to sit at Jesus' right hand
 - i. Wrote the Gospel of John, 1,2,3 John and Revelation; minister of Love, banished to Patmos, died naturally
- 5) **Philip** – Preached the Gospel and died a martyr in Hierapolis
- 6) **Bartholomew** (Nathaniel) – Can anything good...Nazareth?
 - i. Missionary to Armenia and beaten to death
- 7) **Thomas** (didymas) – Doubted resurrection.
 - i. Labored in Persian and India, martyred
- 8) **Matthew** (Levi) – Martyred in Ethiopia
- 9) **James** – the younger (Son of Alphaeus) – Crucified in Egypt
- 10) **Jude (Lebbaeus)** (Thaddaeus), – Preached in Assyria and Persia where he was martyred
- 11) **Simon** the Canaanite (zealot) – Crucified
- 12) **Judas** Iscariot – Betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver

20. This gives us hope

- 1) If I don't fully understand the things of God like the disciples
- 2) If I have been called into ministry and walked away
- 3) If I have anger or pride issues like James / John
- 4) If I am a doubter like Thomas
- 5) If I don't understand the trinity like Philip... Show us the Father...
- 6) If I'm extreme like Peter and have really high and really low times
 - i. Then God can use me as well.

III. Multitude Jesus healed

1. **Vs. 17** People from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all
2. His Word bring healing
3. His Word brings deliverance
4. **Psalm 107:20** He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.

5. Notice His response:

- a.** To the crowd: He welcomed them and healed them
 - i. No one was rejected
 - ii. No one was rebuked over their sins
 - iii. No one was denied access to Jesus for any reason

- b.** Contrast that with the disciples; He embraced them and took them on a journey
 - i. Jesus doesn't reject anyone

- c.** Crowds only wanted something and they were gone
 - i. The disciples forsook everything and followed Jesus

- d.** Crowds were not looking for a complete change in their life
 - i. Disciples knew that everything would change in following

- e.** Crowds had no interest in denying themselves and taking up the cross
 - i. Disciples slowly learned that the Cross was the key to life