

Would He Choose Me? Lk. 6:12-16

Introduction:

During the course of this lesson, we are going to ask ourselves the question, “Would He choose me?” We must evaluate ourselves and answer this question honestly if we are going to be good servants of His.

I. When Jesus is faced with this decision, He spends all night in prayer.

A. Jesus went to the mountain for the purpose of prayer.

1. Jesus often went to a solitude place to pray.
 - a. **Mk. 1:35** - Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.
 - b. **Mt. 14:23** - And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.
 - c. **Lk. 5:16** - So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.
 - d. **Lk. 9:18** - And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”
 - e. **Lk. 22:39-42** - Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. {40} When He came to the place, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” {41} And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, {42} saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”
2. He also prayed prayers with others around (but never for a show).
 - a. **Lk. 3:21** - When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.
 - b. **Lk. 9:29** - And as He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.
 - c. **Lk. 23:34** - Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”
3. Jesus spent a great deal of time in prayer.

B. We need to follow the example of Christ.

1. When we are faced with a difficult decision, we need to spend time in prayer.
 - a. If Jesus, as the Son of God, spent all night in prayer, we must be willing to follow His example and spend time in prayer.

- b. It is interesting to note (at least as far as I can tell) that Jesus spent more time in prayer in the choosing of His apostles than He did in facing His death.
2. We need to know and understand the power of prayer.
- a. God wants us to rely on Him in prayer.
 - 1) **Rom. 12:12** - rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;
 - 2) **Eph. 6:18** - praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--
 - 3) **Phil. 4:6** - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
 - 4) **Col. 4:2** - Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;
 - 5) **I Thes. 5:17** - pray without ceasing,
 - 6) **Jas. 5:16** - Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
 - b. The early church is a prime example of prayer.
 - 1) **Acts 1:14** - These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
 - 2) **Acts 12:5** - Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.
 - 3) **Acts 16:25** - But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

C. If Jesus spent all night in prayer concerning me, would He choose me?

II. We have the purpose of the selection of the apostles.

A. To see this purpose, notice **Mk. 3:13-15**.

1. They were to be with Him.

- a. From the time they were called until after His death, these twelve were with Jesus.
 - 1) The obvious exception is Judas, who hung himself before Jesus was killed.
 - 2) The rest of them remained with Jesus for His entire earthly ministry.
- b. For the next three years, these men were with Jesus.
 - 1) They knew the places that Jesus would visit.
 - 2) They would have heard some of these prayers.
 - 3) They would have seen the miracles that Jesus performed.
 - 4) They were always with Jesus.

- c. This would be one of the requirements needed to replace Judas after his death.
 - 1) In **Mt. 27:5**, we read that Judas hung himself after he had betrayed Jesus.
 - 2) The apostles needed to replace him.
 - 3) **Acts 1:21-22** (Peter's speech before Matthias is chosen) - Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, {22} beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.
- d. They were appointed to be with Christ.
- e. Today, we need to be with Christ through His word.
 - 1) We can read about Christ through His word.
 - 2) We can know what He has done while on the earth and learn from them, just as the twelve apostles did.

2. They were appointed to preach.

- a. Everywhere they went, they were able to talk about Jesus and the things that He was doing.
- b. Notice when they preached the gospel.
 - 1) **Mk. 6:7-12** - And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits. {8} He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff-- no bag, no bread, no copper in their money belts—{9} but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics. {10} Also He said to them, “In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place. {11} And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!” {12} So they went out and preached that people should repent.
 - 2) **Mk. 16:20** - And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.
 - 3) **Acts 2** – Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost.
 - 4) **Acts 3** – Peter preaches at Solomon's Porch.
 - 5) Numerous other examples can be given from the book of Acts.
- c. This is a command that we, as His disciples, are to follow today.
 - 1) **Mk. 16:15** - And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
 - 2) **II Tim. 4:2** - Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

3. They were also to have the power to heal the sick and cast out demons.
- a. As they went about preaching, they were able to heal the sick and cast out demons.
 - 1) Mk. 6:13 - And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.
 - 2) Mk. 16:17-20 - “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; {18} they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” {19} So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. {20} And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.
 - b. Even throughout the book of Acts, we see the miracles that they did in order to confirm the word of God.
- B. There was a purpose (reason) for Jesus selecting these twelve men.
1. When we know our purpose, we are more apt to fulfill that purpose and have that sense of value.
 2. These twelve apostles (again, with the exception of Judas) fulfilled the purpose that Jesus had given them.
- C. Today, If Jesus were going to select individuals to fulfill this plan, would He choose me?
1. Do we know Jesus from the reading of His word?
 2. Do we fulfill the task of telling others of Jesus and the love that He has for us?
 3. Are we fulfilling His purpose?

Conclusion:

Ask yourself:

If Jesus spent all night in prayer over us, would He choose me?

If Jesus needed someone to fulfill His purpose, would He choose me?

If Jesus were selecting His apostles today, would He choose me?

If not, why not?