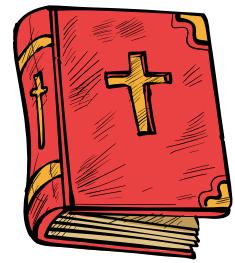




For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

¹²One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles (Luke 6:12-13)

Numerous times the gospel writers tell us that Jesus pulled away from people to pray (i.e., Matthew 14:23, 23:36-39, Mark 1:35, 6:46-47, Luke 5:15-16, 6:12, 9:18). Why did the authors think it was so important for us to know that Jesus went off to solitary places to be alone and to pray?

Prayer is far more than telling God all the things we want him to do for us and those we love--prayers for healing, salvation, financial provision, good sleep, etc. It is not that we can't or shouldn't pray about these things, but we miss out on the relational interaction with our Creator and Friend when we prioritize the list of "wishes" that we have.

Jesus chose to go before God with a crucial dilemma: who should he choose to be his inner circle of rabbinical students? Who would he prioritize mentoring for future leadership? In Luke 6:14-16, we are told his selections.

How did Jesus make his selections? We don't know. However, he seemed to pick diverse people from various walks of life and differing political and religious perspectives. He modeled diversity, equity, and inclusion. Some might argue that Jesus should have not picked these guys (especially Judas), but Jesus sees potential in all of us and asked for divine direction before making the decision. If Jesus prioritized prayer, we should too.



REFLECTION:
What do I usually
pray about?

PRACTICE:
Spend longer than
normal praying and
listening to God.