



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 26 "The Necessity of Prayer" By Pastor Jody May

Luke 6:12-16 ESV

The Twelve Apostles

¹²In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. ¹³And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: ¹⁴Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

HEART or CONFLICT & CONVICTON

HEAD or CONFIDENCE:

HANDS or CONDUCT:

I came across some decisions this week, some things that I had to start thinking about, normal life things:

- To finish the basement, how much of it, in what style, what will be the resale value of the house when I am done.
- What colleges to start looking at for Baylee, to help her get prepped for the SAT, to start looking for a car so she is able to do dual enrolment.
- To let Avery, participate in the last wrestling tournament this week or not.
- To not let my youngest daughter quit an after-school dance club.
- Who do we go with for our retirement accounts?

Out of all these things while nothing seems out of the ordinary, here's where I failed a little in them. **I never took these decisions to God.** I mean why should I, they're just everyday decisions right? **I should pray** about things in my home that pertain to God, His Kingdom, helping my family become disciples. But then I **remembered that discipleship**, the practice of leading, developing, mentoring, modeling, for the next generation leader is not a program, a class, a devotion time, **it is an ALL OF LIFE EVENT.** You see here's what I forgot:



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- The basement is done with the intention so that we can host people for game nights, adults and kids, lost with the unlost. As well it will function as an office and give church leadership a place to meet and plan.
- Where Baylee spends her college years will be some of the most important years in her life as she prepares to enter into adult life honing her skills that she will put to use for God's Kingdom.
- The decision about whether Avery goes to a wrestling meet is more about him seeing the importance of meeting to hear God's Word is paramount over a wrestling meet that he will have opportunity to do later.
- The decision for Charlee is to help her to endure an unpleasant thing so that she develops character to develop Hope, which will not fail her.
- The decision about retirement accounts is about Heather and I learning the struggle of not putting our hope in money but in God, so how much is enough?

All of these things DO deal with God's Kingdom and they are things that need to be offered to God, so that our relationship can develop, His Glory is increased and my joy of Him grows preserving me to my end. Here's the real question right now, "How cannot I not pray about those things!?"

Here's what we all are failing to learn in life and as the church it is crucial, we relearn this fact right now:

Prayer is not 'A' way to live in/for God's Kingdom it is 'THE' way.

Here is prayer according to the Baptist Catechism:¹

Question 109: What is Prayer?

Answer: Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgement of His mercies. (1 John 5:14; 1:9; Phil. 4:6; Psalm 10:17; 145:19; John 14:13,14.)

¹ <http://baptiststudiesonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/02/keachs-catechism-of-1677.pdf>



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As It is with anything that is important with your life, know this, Prayer is not to be tacked onto the back of a task to make the endeavor successful, **but it is 'THE TASK' that He calls us to do!** We are to offer our desires up to God, translation - if it is something you want to do - pray about it.

He's the one that makes anything successful not us, we forget the gospel, that He is the one at work making all things new (Rev. 21:5), not us! We are called to pray for this reason, so that He may receive the glory and upon seeing Him glorified you get joy. Without prayer God gets no credit from us or the world, there is no relationship with Him being built, we receive no true lasting joy from life for all outcomes now have no direct correlation to God.

Prayer acknowledges God for all things, your requests and your praise, period...

In our passage today, we will see a simple formula for prayer, played out by Jesus when it came to one of the most important decisions in His life and for the future of the church. The choosing of the 12 disciples because Jesus know this simple fact:

Prayer is not 'A' way to live in/for God's Kingdom it is 'THE' way.

1. **Make Time to Pray.**

¹²In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

"In these days", this phrase tells us about this particular time that Jesus chose to pray. What we have just studied tells us this is the **escalation of the opposition**. The Pharisees have declared all-out war on Jesus to plan His death (Isaiah 53 & Psalm 22). Jesus now knows the clock is ticking, and that His death/resurrection is only ½ of the plan. It has come time to pick the new representatives of Israel that will rebuild the clans (that's why there were 12 Apostles to symbolically represent the 12 tribes). It has come to pray for those that will stay behind and become the fathers of the church as He said to Peter, "the rock upon which He will build His church".

"all night He continues in prayer", *Dianyktereuo* (dē-ä-nük-te-ryü'-ō) to spend the whole night. Jesus didn't just spend the night on the mountain and prayed while He stayed awake, the intent



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is that He prayed all night long. At this point in the Gospel the prayer of Jesus seems very obvious because Luke had highlighted with this term.

BUT as so often the case when reading the Gospels, we often time **Eisegete on the text** an unspoken belief that we have of Jesus. I think we forget an important aspect of Jesus ministry on Earth. Jesus had **put down**, while in the flesh (Phil.2:8), **His divine power** and He lives as we do in the power of the HS which came upon Him at Baptism/Coronation (Luke 3:22). That would mean that everything Jesus does must first be established by prayer and that His communication with the Father only happens through prayer. He is doing life as we are supposed to do life showing what should be and perfectly accomplishing it. **Jesus is spending time with God to search for the agreement of wills and He is acting out on the decisions.**

- Remember now **chapter 3** fasting would have meant prayer, that came right before His Judean Synagogue ministry – where He began to tell people who He was through His northern preaching campaign.
- Then in **4:42** after that went to a desolate place to pray again and the people found Him and he called Peter, James, & John.
- Then in **5:16** He is seen praying right before He begins to confront the Pharisees on their view of the common man and beliefs of the sabbath.

You see I think as the church we overlook what Jesus is doing with prayer **because we think HE acts on His own will instead of reading that He PRAYS AND THEN ACTS.** Remember the Bible was not written to be the complete book of Jesus' life, it is just a snap shot of the highlights but in that snapshot you have prayer as major part of His life, most likely making prayer an all of life thing for Him.

The simple thing we need to walk away with here is **we make time for prayer because He made time for it.** Prayer is not the thing we tack on the end it is **the thing we do first.** What can you do to start making it first?

- Yes, make a schedule for it, make it a habit to do before things.
- Make it a habit in your home before you make dinner not when it is ready.
- Make it a habit to pray on the way to school, work, and before you enter back into the home.
- More importantly you need to make time away and quiet for the bigger prayers in life for prayer is the action of wrestling your will into submission to God's.



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2. Move with Resolve.

¹³ And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:

Jesus spent His time well and when He is done praying, He doesn't hesitate but goes down to go ahead with the decision.

You know those things in your life you are neglecting to do, the things you procrastinate in? Perhaps those are things that you either need to pray for or need to wrestle a little more with God and get comfortable with making decisions.

Easy for me to say right? Well it worked for Jesus it should work for you! As a matter of fact, I feel pretty secure in making this point to you, to move with resolve after you pray, because I know even if your misinterpreting God wrong on a situation our God gives grace to those that seek Him. **God's desire is that you know Him, so the invite to prayer is the invite to fail under His protection.**

Proverbs 8:17 ESV

¹⁷ I love those who love me,
and those who seek me diligently find me.

Jesus fully aware of this fact, He trusts in God's love and trusts the guidance of the Spirit and makes a HUGE decision!

"Apostle" ä-po'-sto-los (*apo*- 'out from' & *stelo* - 'send') - To send out from. Jesus picked guys that would speak for Him meaning they would carry the full weight of the Kingdom of God to do what He will do and will have to do it like Him when HE is gone all by the Power of the HS through prayer. Jesus will be turning over the reins to these guys in 2 years, guys He did not know! If Jesus can move with this much resolve, if He trusts God that much and was right, then we can trust Jesus and move with resolve in our lives as well.

- Make decisions with confidence after prayer.



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- Take chances for the sake of Christ
- Decide to do the difficult and strange because that is how Kingdom people roll.
- Do it because God loves those that love Him, and you are promised that you will find Him if you seek Him and the way you seek Him is to pray!
- Rest in the fact that Jesus is our High Priest forever and according to **Heb. 7:25** He will always be your connection to God through our prayers. Understand the son makes the request and He is speaking for you.

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3. Glorify God by Trusting in the Results.

¹⁴Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Peter, leader of the Apostles, rebuked by Christ for speaking for Satan, denies Jesus at His death.

James and John that want to blow up Samaritans and whose mom is trying to work an angle with Jesus to get them positions of authority.

Simon the Zealot, a political rebel, probably scheming on how to get Jesus to start a war.

Matthew/Levi the hated tax collector.

Thomas the doubter.

Judas the greedy and betrayer.

Fishermen, tax collectors, accountants, rebels without a cause, no theologians among them for Jesus has rejected Judaism and He went with guys that had a SS education at best.

In that over 2 years He never abandons the plans and because of that we are here, and it is to these men, who through Christ, we owe our existence to today. Jesus made the right choice with men that to the world looked like they could not do it! **You see we glorify God by not giving up in our prayers but trusting He will come through!**

When Luke writes many of these men have already begun to die for the cause.

Peter crucified upside down and leader of the church – 60s.

James, brother of John, the first martyr in 44 AD by King Herod.



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John almost boiled to death exiled on Patmos.
Thomas speared in his sides repeatedly in India by hostile priests.
James stoned and then clubbed to death.
Andrew crucified.
Phillip, was scourged to the point of death and crucified - 54.
Matthew killed in Norther Africa, Ethiopia, speared to death - 60.
Thaddeus is crucified - 72.
Simon the Zealot ends up in Britain crucified - 74.

Almost all are gone when he writes this, and in the end of Acts when Luke finishes his work we find Paul at the capital of the world in Rome, with churches planted all over the Roman Empire between 40-50 years after Christ's Ascension. Let me ask you was Jesus' prayer successful, was God Glorified!? These men were true Apostles!

Whatever happens with the things we pray for family once released they are in God's hands. Keep praying for them but hold your resolve for those things you see as God's will (John 16 & 17 we see Jesus pray for His boys). Don't be discouraged by those you pray for that seem to be floundering, God's Kingdom advancement is sometimes too complicated to comprehend but it is a glorious thing to see it come to pass.

Don't be discouraged by what seems to be the unanswered prayers of today for they may be the workings of God for the answers of tomorrow.

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In closing Bill and I wanted to share something with you, so that we can start becoming a church that makes time to pray, acts with resolve, and trusts God for the results. We want to share with you a new endeavor in launching a corporate prayer initiative that we pray will get us all more excited about praying and looking for God's answers.

**(Bill will come up and walk us through our prayer page on the web
<http://www.highlandsc.com/ministries/prayer/>)**

PRAYER



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COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father who is always willing to hear our prayers and answer them in Jesus' name.

Go in the name of the Son who is our intercessor ensuring that the Father will hear us.

Go in the name and power of the HS that helps us to pray sometimes with groans when our words are just not enough.