



friendship
community church

Book of Luke Series

Luke 6: 12-19

Week of May 12-18, 2019

This week Michael continued our series as we work our way through the Gospel of Luke. As a reminder, Luke wrote to primarily a Gentile audience and relied heavily on the writings of Mark. Luke, being a doctor by profession, seems to include detail at times that is not mentioned by the other gospel writers. Luke was also a companion of the Apostle Paul as we see in the book of Acts.

1. Michael's first point was Jesus Picks His Team v. 12-16

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

He chooses not only disciples, but also apostles.

The 12 apostles are listed in Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts and at times the names are a little different in the listings. They are the same people but the names at times change because they have names in Hebrew and Aramaic and they are used interchangeably considering the primary audience the writers were addressing.

There were many disciples but he called 12 out as apostles. The gospels are filled with accounts of many people following or at least inquisitive about Jesus and they are referenced as disciples.

Here are the 12 apostles that Jesus chose after praying.

- Peter and Andrew (fishermen and brothers),
- James and John (sons of Zebedee, fishermen and brothers),
- Bartholomew (Nathanael),
- James (son of Alphaeus, the Lesser or the Younger – not the half-brother of Jesus),
- Judas Iscariot (not a Galilean like the rest of the apostles),
- Jude (Thaddeus),
- Matthew (Levi – the tax collector),
- Philip (was quick to tell Bartholomew/Nathanael that Jesus was the One to follow),
- Simon the Zealot (an anti-government or anti-religious guy/revolutionary),
- Thomas (who doubts once and is marked as doubting Thomas throughout history).

Disciple - anyone curious about following Jesus – they may have not fully committed are seeking and are contemplating and considering this Jesus. Discipleship in someone's life may begin before they decide to fully commit to following Christ.

A couple of important truths –

He prayed before He chose - He prayed all night.

Choosing leaders is a huge task.

Prayer as the means to seek God and His will. Often times, prayer is mentioned and talked about much more than it is actually practiced. Discovering God's will without spending time in prayer and His Word is relying on your own wisdom and strength and is a great indicator that you trust your own intuition more than you trust the One Who is always faithful and trustworthy.

What are some ways that you have made prayer a priority in your life and in the life of your family?

Why do you think Jesus thought it mandatory that He spend time praying before choosing the 12?

What are some lessons that we can learn from this example of Jesus praying before choosing?

What are some things in your life (choices you are needing to make) right now that would be best served by praying and waiting on God to give you guidance before proceeding or choosing?

2. Michael's Second Major Point of the sermon is The Most Famous Plain Sermon v. 17-19

And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

People were there for a couple of reasons – to hear Jesus speak and be healed. Some know what is going on and others are there just trying to figure out what is going on. There were some “rubberneckers” in the crowd more than likely. They saw and heard some stuff going on and were drawn to the spectacle.

It is important to remember that God shows up to - Proclaim His Word and To Heal.

What are some areas of your life that you need to experience God's healing? Are you willing to surrender your fear of the circumstances and to trust God in all things? In every area of your life?

Coming out of the 45 Days of Faithfulness, what are some things that God is continuing to teach you in walking and living faithfully? How has He challenged you to surrender areas in your life that you may be holding on tightly?

This week as you continue to pray include in that prayer time how God might be leading you pray for Celia Schoen and supporting her financially. Celia is a member of our church that is heading to the mission field as a nurse and an educator. Would you pray and ask God how He might be including you in giving on a monthly basis and praying for Celia?

Take time to share prayer requests and pray together.