

I. Luke

- A. A sampling of prayer, Jesus' prayer life, and His teachings on prayer in Luke (1:13; 2:37; 3:21; 5:16; 6:12, 28; 9:18; 11:1-2; 18:1-8; 22:41, 45).
- B. The Selection of the 12 disciples (Luke 6:12-16) upon Jesus going up to the mountain to pray.
 - 1. **Luke 6:12-13 "In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. ¹³ And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:"**
 - 2. The placement of this selection in Luke after the conspiring against Jesus shows that Jesus was in one sense looking ahead to who would carry on His mission after He would go away. To Jesus, this was a matter which required the kind of expression of prayer which disturbs normal routine. It was a matter which required getting seeking the Father's heart and heavenly perspective.
 - 3. Mathew and Mark's accounts show us the kind of community from which was to form His ambassadors. In Matt 10 they are called and then sent out with authority over demons and disease. In Mark 3 they are called and sent out to preach (herald, announce, proclaim). In all of the accounts of selecting The Twelve, it stands out that Jesus is forming a community of those with diverse and even opposing social backgrounds and a community among which a traitor took part. The community of Christ's disciples was ripe to learn forgiveness and to confront offense. This is the kind of community which forms ambassadors (representatives) of Christ.
 - a) What Luke's emphasis is communicating to us is that it is prayer which forms this kind of community! The selection took place after a night of prayer and the one

practice or discipline which this community is recorded as going on to ask Jesus to teach them is the practice of prayer (Luke 11).

- C. **Luke 24:49-53** And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

1. The single descriptor that Luke uses at the end of his Gospel account to tell about the way Christ's follower's spent those initial days in Jerusalem after the Ascension- **Continual Prayer**

II. Acts

- A. **Acts 1:14** All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.
- B. **Acts 2:42** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- C. **Acts 6:4** But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."
- D. **Acts 13:1-3** Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.
- E. **Acts 15:1-29** But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to

Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. ³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses." ⁶ The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. ⁷ And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, ⁹ and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will." ¹² And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. ¹⁵ And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, ¹⁶ " 'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, ¹⁷ that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things ¹⁸ known from of old.'

¹⁹ Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, ²⁰ but should write to them to abstain

from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. ²¹ For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”