

Saturday 9 April 2022

Luke 6:12 - 16

12 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. 13 When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: 14 Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, 15 Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, 16 Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Over the last couple of weeks Saturdays have been the quiet contemplative days. There have been many reasons to do so, from spending time in God's presence, recognising who God is, waiting on God, listening for God to speak (instead of always doing the talking), recharging so that we are able to go out again and do God's work. This week it is about spending time with God before we make a big decision. Before Jesus chose the 12 disciples, he went to be alone and spent a whole night praying to God. He did not take this decision lightly and went to the source of all wisdom for help. This is just one example in Jesus' life but time and time again when Jesus faced a difficult decision, we are told that he prayed.

When we have to make big decisions, difficult decisions, we will consult people around us, those who know us well and those who have more knowledge on the subject than we do; we make pros and cons lists, we weigh all our options but in today's passage we are reminded that we need to pray, and not just a quick prayer for wisdom or guidance but serious prayer. We need to spend time alone with God, seeking God's will, God's wisdom, God's plan. If you have any big decisions coming up in your life, I encourage you today to spend time with God, seeking God's will and listening for God's voice.

Prayer

Almighty God, it's so much easier to listen to the loud clamouring voices of this world, to turn to people around us for advice that they will speak clearly to us. We have lost the patience of waiting on you. When we pray they are short and sharp seeking advice, asking for things and then we switch back to the world again. Help us to follow Jesus' example and to make time to spend with you, not just a rush in and a rush out but quality time, where it is all about our relationship with you and seeking your will.

Your word tells us that you do hear all our prayers but that all things happen in your time. Help us to patiently wait on your word and to trust in your promises. Help us to hear you speaking to us whether through the still small voice of your Spirit in our minds or through the voices of other people or through signs and wonders. Help us to discern which are your words and which are our own heart's desires.

We pray this in Jesus' name

Amen.

Rev Kim S Brown