

March 9, 2010

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:42-44 & Luke 6:12-16

In Jesus' school of prayer, we discover that Jesus prays at important times in his life and ministry. We also discover that he withdraws to desert places or mountains to be alone with God for extended amounts of time.

Luke makes it clear that Jesus' prayer-life and his ministry are connected. He prays before he leaves Capernaum to declare the good news of God's Kingdom in other cities. He prays all night before he chooses the twelve who would be his apostles. The way Luke tells the story, it seems that Jesus' ministry is driven by his relationship with God, and that his relationship with God is driven by prayer. Luke doesn't tell us that the apostles were gifted or qualified in any way. He simply tells us that after Jesus prayed, he chose them.

Think about the connection between prayer and major decisions in your life. Do you ever withdraw to a place of solitude to spend extended time with God before you decide and act? Or do you decide and act, and then ask God to bless your decision?

Are there any decisions ahead of you that need prayerful preparation? Are there any life-changing events on the horizon of your life that would benefit from time spent in conversation with God? What would it take for you to set aside an extended period of time (an hour or two? a day?) to be alone with God?

For many of us, prayer is rushed or squeezed into fleeting moments in daily life. Just as you need to spend time with the important people in your life, you also need to spend time with God.

Ask God to continue to teach you about prayer. Give time with God the time and attention God desires.