

Luke 6:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Analysis

Before choosing the twelve apostles, Jesus 'went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.' The Greek 'dianyktereō' (διὰ ὅλης νυκτὸς ἐκτερεῶ, continue through the night) emphasizes extended, intensive prayer. Jesus consistently prayed before major decisions and events, modeling dependence on the Father. Choosing apostles—men who would lead the church—required divine wisdom. All-night prayer demonstrates the seriousness of apostolic selection and teaches that crucial decisions demand extended, focused communion with God.

Historical Context

Mountains provided solitude for prayer away from crowds. Jesus regularly retreated to isolated places for prayer (Luke 5:16, 9:18, 9:28). The twelve apostles would become foundation stones of the church (Ephesians 2:20), making their selection critically important. Jesus' prayer-saturated life contrasts with modern activism that prioritizes action over communion with God. First-century rabbis gathered disciples, but Jesus' apostolic selection followed intense prayer, showing these men were divinely chosen, not merely recruited.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' all-night prayer before choosing apostles teach about seeking God's wisdom for important decisions?
2. How does Jesus' pattern of extended prayer challenge modern ministry that prioritizes activity over communion with God?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------|------------|--------------|--------|---------|---------------------|------------------|-------|
| Ἐγένετο | δὲ | ἐν | ταῖς | ἡμέραις | ταύταις | ἐξηλθεν | εἰς |
| it came to pass | And | in | G3588 | days | G3778 | that he went out | into |
| G1096 | G1161 | G1722 | | G2250 | | G1831 | G1519 |
| τὸ | ὄρος | προσεύξασθαι | καὶ | ἦν | διανυκτερεύων | ἐν | |
| G3588 | a mountain | to pray | and | G2258 | continued all night | in | |
| | G3735 | G4336 | G2532 | | G1273 | G1722 | |
| τῇ | προσευχῇ | τοῦ | θεοῦ | | | | |
| G3588 | prayer | G3588 | to God | | | | |
| | G4335 | | G2316 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 5:7 (Prayer): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Mark 6:46 (Prayer): And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

Mark 1:35 (Prayer): And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Colossians 4:2 (Prayer): Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Matthew 6:6 (Prayer): But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Daniel 6:10 (Prayer): Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Psalms 22:2 (References God): O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.