

Prayer and Common Men

How Jesus accomplishes the advancement of his kingdom in the world.

Sermon Questions

1. As the crowds grew, Jesus chose disciples to build his church as he does today. (Yes/No)
2. People accused Jesus of not being a man of prayer because he didn't make it a _____ show.
3. Why did Jesus pray all night? _____
4. What must you do in light of Jesus' example of prayer?

5. Jesus chose twelve to show both the continuity and discontinuity of his great salvation pictured in the city of God, the people of the redeemed in Revelation 21:12–14. (Yes/No)
6. The same pattern—Jesus choosing sinners out of the world—is seen in all disciples. (Yes/No)
7. List at least four of the twelve apostles, noting one fact or lesson from their life.

8. What three lessons are seen in this example of Jesus praying and choosing the twelve:
 - i. God chooses the unknown, nameless, and common people so that _____.
 - ii. God uses people of _____ positions, authorities, and talents.
 - iii. God uses _____ and the call of common men to advance his _____.

Discussion/Meditation Questions

1. How does Jesus challenge you in your prayers? What changes can you make this week to grow in this area?

2. Do you see your life as a calling just as much as a pastor or missionary? How are you living in light of the truth of God's word and making his truth known in your life? What areas need work?

3. What do you want inscribed on your tombstone? How do you want to be remembered? What changes need to be implemented?

4. For more accounts of early Christians and especially the Marian martyrs in England during the Reformation, see the book *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* by John Foxe or *Five English Reformers* by J.C. Ryle.

Bonus Material: Jesus praying to God?

How can it be that Jesus was praying to God? Luke 6:12 says that Jesus "continued in prayer to God." But, you say, I thought he was God. Some have used this as an example of Jesus not being God, because he cannot be God if he is praying to God! How do we understand this?

One cannot ignore the direct statements that Jesus is God. John says in John 1:1, the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In John 20:28, Thomas says, "My Lord and my God!" In Titus 2:13 Paul writes about the "the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." Peter says in 2 Peter 1:1, "To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ." The author of Hebrews says that "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature" (Heb 1:3). Paul testifies in Colossians 2:9 that "in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" and again in Romans 9:5, "To [Israel] belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen."

So how can God pray to God? Here is the mystery of God. There is no one like him. He has revealed himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Equal in essence or nature, yet distinct in role, and in perfect fellowship, communion, and existence in love. We catch a glimpse into the nature of God but can go no further apart from divine revelation in understanding the inscrutable and immeasurable nature of our Almighty God. Here the Son pleads to the Father—co-equal, co-eternal, yet distinct in person. For more reading, see Wayne Grudem's book *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know*.