

SEEK GOD'S WISDOM AND DISCERNMENT Luke 6:12-19

BACKGROUND – A MAJOR DECISION TO MAKE – NAMING THE 12 APOSTLES

1. Jesus did more than ask for guidance – He wove prayer throughout the process
 - “Continued in prayer” – unceasing, fervent, persevering
2. For us, the Bible becomes an important way for God to speak to us
3. A heart that is humbly dependent. “Your will be done”

PRAYERFULLY PREPARE TO MEET CHALLENGES

Matthew 14:22-33

BACKGROUND – THE DEMANDS OF THE CROWD TO MAKE JESUS KING

1. Jesus takes a step back and prays
 - Jesus prayed for Himself – How to respond to the crowd
 - Jesus prays for the 12 – How they will respond to the crowd walking away
2. Praying through Scripture is the key to preparing for the challenges we and others have.

3. This is how we pray for ourselves and for others (children, spouse, other believers)
4. A heart that is surrendered to God – “Your kingdom come”

RECEIVE THE ENABLING GRACE OF GOD TO WALK WITH HIM

Mark 14:32-42

BACKGROUND – FACING THE AGONY OF THE CROSS

1. Jesus, even in His distress, begins with affirming His relationship with and trust in God the Father 14:36
 - “Abba” - Papa, Communicates closeness and affection
2. Jesus shares His heart openly and without fear of rejection. 14:36
3. Jesus surrenders his will to the will of the Father
4. It is the act of surrendering to God that opens our lives to His enabling Grace
5. A heart that is prepared for the spiritual battle – “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”

WRAP IT UP: