

Tuesday 7th Sep 2021



Tuesday of the twenty-third week in Ordinary Time Year 1

Gospel

Lk 6:12-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

He spent the night in prayer. He chose twelve from his disciples and called them Apostles.

Jesus went out into the hills to pray; and he spent the whole night in prayer to God. When day came he summoned his disciples and picked out twelve of them; he called them 'apostles': Simon whom he called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot who became a traitor.

He then came down with them and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. People tormented by unclean spirits were also cured, and everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him because power came out of him that cured them all.

Refection by Fr John Purnell

Jesus goes up a mountain to spend the entire night in prayerful communion with God. He was to choose twelve of his disciples the next day and make them apostles. It was a serious decision he had to make and he needed to draw on God's wisdom. Jesus was deadly serious about picking the right kind of apostles.

When we look back at some of the types of men Jesus chose, we have to wonder did Jesus actually make contact with God that night on the mountain?

For a moment let's think about some of these men. Peter denied 3 times that he ever knew Jesus. James and John, who Jesus called "sons of thunder" well, they wanted God to zap and incinerate a whole town with lightning bolts because the locals refused to accept Jesus among them. Then there was Thomas the one who doubts everything, Nathanael who figured nothing good could ever come out of Nazareth, and what about the infamous Judas? who turned traitor. 6 of the 12 to be were not exactly model choices were they?

The wonderful thing in all this is that in all those that Jesus chose, eventually repented their misdeeds, changed their lifestyles, proclaimed the risen Lord and the kingdom, and testified to the Lord and the kingdom with their blood. Now that is the miracle!

So Jesus, it seems, made the right choices. God has called us. Each of us makes decisions day after day after day. We ourselves choose to make these decisions. Our day to day decisions should always mark us as faithful committed servants of our God and servants to our neighbours, despite the fact that we sometimes may not seem to be the perfect model choice!