

JESUS PRAYING IN LUKE'S ACCOUNT

God Confirms Jesus' Identity When He Prays At His Baptism

3.21-22 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was **praying**, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "*You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.*"

Facing The Temptation Of Popularity By Prayer

5.15-16 more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and **pray**.

Making A Decision About His Disciples With Prayer

See Luke 6.12-16

Creating A Moment Of Decision For His Disciples After Prayer

9.18 Once when Jesus was **praying** alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

Sharing His True Identity With His Disciples As He Prays

9.28-29 Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to **pray**. 29And while he was **praying**, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white

Passing On The Practice Of Prayer To His Disciples

11:1He was **praying** in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to **pray**, as John taught his disciples."

Making The Right Choice And Challenging His Disciples Through Prayer – At A Critical Moment

22.41-46 Then Jesus withdrew from his disciples about a stone's throw, knelt down, and **prayed**, 42"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." 43Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. 44In his anguish he **prayed** more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. 45When he got up from **prayer**, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, 46and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? **Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.**"

Sermon Notes: "Prayerfully Chosen"

Luke 6:12-16; Matthew 16:15-18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13:1

David Renwick October 13, 2019

National Presbyterian Church Washington, DC

1. Jesus can "go it alone" – but he chooses to serve God *with others*
2. The "others" whom Jesus calls are diverse (*see below, Luke 6:13-16*)
3. Jesus intentionally creates a team, not just a gathering of individuals (*The number 12 is significant – and represents the new "12 tribes" of Israel*)
4. Every "team member" should see themselves as having a Christ-given mission. (*We are all "apostles" = "sent ones" on Jesus's mission*)
5. The church is Jesus' idea. (*To be a Christian is not just about being a good person, or an individual follower of Jesus, but it's about joining and playing our part in some branch of Jesus team: his church*)
6. Jesus prays – and calls us to pray for his team, the church, to be effective!

Luke 6:12-16

12Now during those days he went out to the mountain to **pray**; and he spent the night in **prayer** to God. 13-16 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles (= "*sent ones*"):

1. **Simon**, whom he named Peter, (*fishing: weak, scared to speak the truth; Lk.22:54-62; Galatians 2:11-13*)
2. and his brother **Andrew**, (*fisherman; friendly. See John 6:8-9*)
3. and **James**, (*fisherman: pride and position; mother's boys Mat.20:20-28*)
4. & **John**, (*same as his brother James above*)
5. and **Philip** (a Greek name),
6. -- and Bartholomew (*we know nothing else*)
7. and **Matthew**(*tax collector; also known as Levi, Lk. 5:27-32*)
8. and **Thomas** (*skeptic: John 20:25*)
9. -- and James son of Alphaeus (*we know nothing else*)
10. and **Simon**, who was **called the Zealot**, (*use of force: Law? Political?*)
11. – and Judas son of James (*we know nothing else*)
12. and **Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.** (*Luke 22*)

Matthew 16:15-18

Jesus said to his followers, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

And Jesus answered him, "*Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.*"

Ordination and Installation
9:00 A.M. October 13, 2019
Litany Of Ministry

ELDER: There are different gifts,

CONGREGATION: But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

But it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through people in different ways.

But it is the same God who achieves his purpose through them all.

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit

To use it for the common good.

Within our common ministry, some members are chosen for particular work as teaching elders, ruling elders, or deacons. In ordination we recognize these special ministries, remembering that our Lord Jesus said,

“Whoever among you wants to be great, must become the servant of all, and whoever wants to be first among you, must be the slave of all.”

This morning JOHN FORLINES comes before us to be installed as an elder on Session.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDER (Pastor)

- a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?
- c. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
- d. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

- e. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?
- f. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
- g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
- h. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
- i. Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service?
- j. Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO CONGREGATION

ELDER:

Do we, the members of the church, accept JOHN FORLINES, as an elder chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? Do we? **CONGREGATION: We do.**

Do we agree to encourage him, to respect his decisions, and to follow as he guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? Do we? **We do.**

PASTOR:

You are now an elder in the Church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.

Unison Prayer of the Congregation

God of grace, who called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation, give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us, that together we may declare your wonderful deeds, and show your love to the world, through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.