



In the gospel reading, Jesus spent the whole night in prayer to God. His relationship with God was so central to his life that he wanted and needed to spend that amount of time in prayerful communion with God. That prayerful communion with God-inspired his choice of the twelve disciples and his teaching and healing the crowds that we hear about in the gospel reading. Because our relationship with Jesus is the central relationship in our lives, we will want and need to spend time with him in prayer. From that prayerful communion will flow our way of being in the world, our way of relating to others, especially those in greatest need.

He prayerfully discerned those who would form this important group. Yet, the leader of this group would go on to deny him three times, and one of the groups would betray him to his enemies. Jesus' prayer did not guarantee perfect results. The fact that we pray does not mean that everything will work out just right. However, prayer deepens our communion with God, and if things do not work out as we might have hoped, we face all that in the strength that our communion with God gives us.

Jesus did choose twelve people of ordinary standing and average repute as His Chosen Apostles. The Gospel of the Day presents this account of this choosing of the Twelve by Jesus, the Master. Twelve persons of varied characters invited to be part of the 'One Kingdom Mission'. Twelve persons of different backgrounds invited to be part of the 'One Jesus Culture'. Twelve persons of dissimilar emotions invited to be part of the 'One Love Civilization'.

Let these twelve persons today teach us something simple yet profound for our Spiritual Lives:

1. Simon, called as Peter: The one known for his wavering temperaments yet faithful and simple in his attitude. **Assets that can be learnt:** To be humble enough to accept our mistakes and correct them. 2. Andrew: The one who left fishing and at the multiplication of loaves, brought the five loaves and two fish to Jesus. **Assets that can be learnt:** To bring simple things before God who can work great wonders. 3. James: The one who was zealous and who accompanied the Lord at many crucial events of His life. **Assets that can be learnt:** To be zealous for the Kingdom of God and be ready to be in close company with Jesus. 4. John: The one who was loyal and displayed tremendous love and faithfulness to His Master. **Assets that can be learnt:** To be faithful and loyal to the Crucified One even in the midst of all uncertainties. 5. Philip: The one, with a Greek name, who told another disciple about Jesus & also helped the Greeks to come to Jesus. **Assets that can be learnt:** To be a person who brings other people to the saving presence of Jesus. 6. Bartholomew: The one who was shocked that Jesus was from the lowly Nazareth but was quick to trounce this feeling. **Assets that can be learnt:** To let go of prejudices and preconception about persons and situations.

7. Matthew: The one who was given an opportunity to reform his way of life and was generous to let go of his possessions. **Assets that can be learnt:** To be free from material attachments in order to follow Christ freely and fully. 8. Thomas: The one who was highly daring and also frank and straightforward in his Faith and his attitude. **Assets that can be learnt:** To be bold about one's faith even if it means to seek a clarification from God. 9. James, son of Alpheus: The one who gets hardly any mention except being called by Jesus and being with the others in the Upper Room after the Ascension of Jesus. **Assets that can be learnt:** To remain in the backdrop, in serving the Lord and being unfazed even if not popular. 10. Simon, the Zealot: The one who is also hardly mentioned but is identified with having a great religious zeal. **Assets that can be learnt:** To curb one's personal instincts and likings in order to suit the style and spirit of Jesus. 11. Judas Thaddeus: The one who wrote the Beautiful letter of Jude and exhorts to be faithful to Christ even in hardships. **Assets that can be learnt:** To learn to be faithful and strong even when persecuted for being a Christian. 12. Judas Iscariot: The one who gave up his love of Jesus for the sake of the love of money. **Assets that can be learnt:** To avoid the subtle trap of materialism and instead remain focused on Jesus always

Twelve persons of simple nature teach us many secrets and virtues to be powerful witnesses of the Kingdom. Twelve persons of ordinary caliber..... teach us to become the extension of the love and mission of Christ Jesus. The Jury or the Panel of Twelve Ordinary Persons, chosen by Jesus, have

contributed their mite in spreading the Gospel and making this world to experience and recognize God's tremendous love. The Master now seeks the same of us too. Though ordinary or simple or little or weak we are, He still invites and calls. Shall we say, Yes?

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, give me a heart that longs to be with You in prayer, each and every day. You entrusted your Mission to your Apostles. Thank you for choosing me the imperfect person to do your Mission. Give me the grace to fulfill this mission of preaching the word of God, primarily by my living out of your teachings and by promoting and helping world-wide missionary activities of the Church.

Jesus, I Trust In You