

## “Prayer of a Life-Time” Luke 6:12-16

**Context:** Luke’s Gospel has moved from the early details of Christ’s Divine birth, His fulfillments of Isaiah’s prophecies, and His demonstration of Divinity to healings and His authority to forgive sin. The context just studied contrasts the nature of the person that Christ revives unto salvation with the nature of the person deadened by religious ritual. Luke uses Christ’s call and offer of forgiveness to Levi, one of the foulest types of sinners in the eyes of the Pharisees, as an example of this contrast. Our current section describes Jesus’ calling and teaching of His disciples. Luke will then discuss the implications of being a disciple and so fulfill the very intent of his Gospel account: to deepen the sometimes wobbly belief of God-lovers (cf. Lk. 1:3-4).

**Life Principle:** Time with God before life’s big moments assures that those moments are bigger than our time of life on this earth (cf. Luke 6:12).

### 1. Prayer of a life-time – Luke 6:12

Jesus was about to choose twelve disciples out of His many followers to entrust the timeless work of the Kingdom to. If the Lord’s Prayer is any indication of how Jesus spent His night praying, then the content included (1) adoration, (2) thanksgiving, (3) affirmation, (4) petition, (5) intercession, (6) confession, (7) renewal, and (8) closing prayer.

### 2. Answer of a life-time – Luke 6:13-16

His heavenly Father heard the prayer in Jesus’ night season and in the light of day revealed the answer of a life-time. Eleven would with great labor take Christ’s timeless work to the world. A twelfth apostle of his own accord would betray Jesus unto death. That death, however, would be part of the answer of a life-time.

### For Further Study:

- In Luke 6:12, Jesus prayed to the Father through the night. As a **Bible study method**, look up the meaning of the word “pray” (#2 and #6) in *Vine’s Expository Dictionary*, *Vine’s online* <http://vines.mike-obrien.net/>, or, better yet, Kittels’ *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* v. 2, p. 807-8. How do #6 and #2 show a difference between Jesus’ kind of prayer and the other six words for prayer? How does the content of the Lord’s prayer (#2) give clarity to the probable meaning for “prayer” found in Luke 6:12 (see also Kenneth Boa, *Face to Face*, p. vii)?
  
- Jesus ‘named’ His chosen disciples “apostles.” Look up the meaning of the word “apostles” in *Vine’s Expository Dictionary*, *Vine’s online* or <http://vines.mike-obrien.net/>. What is the difference in nature and calling between the technical term “Apostle” and the general term “apostle?” What is an “apostolic church” (1) biblically, (2) historically, and (3) falsely (cf. John 15:16; Eph. 2:20; 3:5; 4:11; <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01634a.htm>; 2 Corinthians 11:13; and Revelation 2:2)? In what sense is GracePoint an apostolic church and in what sense is it not?
  
- We confess and believe that the Jesus Christ founded and is the only head of the universal (catholic) church made up of believers from every language and nation (cf. footnote 11 ‘**On the Church**’ in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at [www.gracepointfellowship.org](http://www.gracepointfellowship.org)). In what sense is GracePoint a catholic church and in what sense is it not?

### Transformation exercise:

In light of Jesus’ example of praying in Luke 6:12 and 5:16, pray through the Lord’s prayer found in Luke 11:1-4 or through Boa’s prayers for tomorrow morning (Kenneth Boa, *Face to Face*).