



REFLECTIONS

August 22, 2021

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

Luke 6:12

Keeping in Step

Interesting isn't it that Jesus chose a mountainside as a setting to pray that day. Perhaps unlevel ground was important for some reason, or maybe he found the balance of nature to best represented there. Or maybe Jesus chose the mountainside simply because God called him there. One thing is sure, when Jesus faced important decision, and he needed someone to talk to. God is always a good choice.

For weeks, Jesus had moved about Galilee teaching, healing, and extending invitations to follow him. Many answered his call, "*Follow me,*" until the total had sizably grown. The time then came to choose those for his leadership class—the ones Jesus would call apostles. He would not make his choices lightly. So,

Jesus withdrew into solitude on a mountainside to talk with God—his Father, friend, and maker of heaven and earth. He worshiped him and prayed to him. In his humanity, Jesus listened to him, and *When morning came he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated as apostles.* (Luke 6:13)

It's hard to seek guidance from someone unless you know them well. And to truly know someone requires time to listen to them, to watch them, to see what they see, hear what they hear, and to feel what they feel. It's true whether the counselor is a parent, a friend, or your Creator.

Jesus looked to God the Father for his guidance. And whether on a mountainside, the plain, or on the choppy waters of Galilee, he spent many days and nights with Him, to listen to Him, to watch Him, to see what He sees, hear what He hears, and feel what He feels.

Jesus now has chosen you and me to *go and bear fruit,* (John 15:16) And Paul explained:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-25)

To keep in step with his Counselor, Jesus spent time with Him, the planner of it all.

To keep in step with Jesus, let's meet him wherever he may call us to be to listen to Him, to watch Him, to see what He sees, hear what He hears, and feel what He feels. Remembering always that Jesus said:

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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