

MARK

3 ¹³Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵and to have authority to drive out demons. ¹⁶These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), ¹⁷James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder"), ¹⁸Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot ¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Ex 33:7-11 The tent of meeting *a picture of our quiet time.*

- a place alone and set apart (Ex 33:7)
- a place where Moses met God (Ex 33:7)
- a place of answers, wisdom, direction (Ex 33:7)
- a place of friendship - God spoke as a friend (Ex 33:9,11)
- a place of worship (Ex 33:10)

1Chronicles 28 ⁹*"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. ¹⁰Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house as the sanctuary. Be strong and do the work."*

Deuteronomy 30 ¹⁹This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life ...

Zechariah 4 ⁶ This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: *'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,'* says the LORD Almighty.

Philippians 4 ¹³I can do all things through him who gives me strength.

Relationship before Service

With Him – a value adding experience

He called them to a special training which was to consist of more intimate nearness to Himself. I am inclined to think that from this hour, he spent a great deal of time in private with them, gave Himself to them more completely than he had done before. [G. Campbell Morgan]

First things first

Jesus' **first priority** of ministry was **relationship**. Jesus made it clear that before the disciples could be involved in service they should first be with Him. They needed to spend time with Him, to observe His behaviour, listen to Him, gain perspective, vision, courage and passion for service.

This is the priority that is observed with everyone called and appointed.

- **Moses:** God's first priority was that Moses knew and understood His heart, His compassion for the people, His purpose and His power available to him [Ex 3,4]. God called Moses to spend time with Him - daily [Ex 33:7-11]. Out of this relationship, Moses led the people.
- **David:** David's Psalms [eg Ps 23] speak of an intimate relationship with the LORD. And David reminds his son **Solomon** that relationship with God must come before any great work or service for God [1Ch 28:9,10,20].
- **Elijah:** 1Ki 19:9,12,13 Again, the LORD was reminding his servant that more important than even prophetic activity, is intimacy with the LORD.
- **Paul:** Gal 1:15-17. After his conversion he spent time alone with God.

Outcomes for Life

Character

Every day growing in grace, becoming like Jesus. [Php 3:10]

Life

Moses' last message to the people was all about keeping first things first. He reminded and pleaded with them to keep a relationship with God as a priority. He described this as a covenant relationship [Dt 29:12-15] that leads to life [Dt 30:19,20].

Jesus said [Jn 10:10] *I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.* Being with the LORD is simply the fullness of life.

Outcomes for Service

Being with Jesus was an essential prerequisite for effective service.

Truth

1Jn 1:3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard ...

The readers had the confidence that this proclamation (teaching) was true because John and the disciples had been with Jesus. Being with Jesus gives us the opportunity to know the truth (in service - credibility to the message).

Power (strength and courage)

It is not in human strength that we serve God, but by the power of His Spirit [Zec 4:6]

Nu 11:25 Then the LORD came down in a cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied ...

1Ch 11:9 And David became more and more powerful, because the LORD Almighty was with him.

Fruit

Jn 15:4 *Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*