

He went into the silence of the mountains and continued in prayer ALL NIGHT. Here by His example, he is saying to us, never make an important decision until you have spent time alone with God in prolonged periods of prayer.

This is what He wanted to train the apostles in. Mark 1:35 sees Him getting up a great while before day and going into a solitary place to pray. He prayed all night and now He is restless and goes out before day to pray.

Instead of taking sleeping tablets, try the example of Jesus, get alone and pray. Examine Luke 11:1-4 again. This is the greatest request ever made by the apostles, "Lord teach us to pray." Note: Not how to pray, nor what to put in our prayers, but teach us to pray. Here is where they failed: Teach us to pray like John taught his disciples. In their minds, they were still John's disciples. How much better to have said, "Lord teach us to pray like you."

Luke only gives a part of the model prayer while Matthew 6:9-13 gives the full text. Read this prayer in the late translations as well as in the old translations. Study it carefully for its simplicity, beauty and logical sequences. Note the ours, the wes, and the uses. Then the next time you are at church listen to the prayers of the people and count the Is, the mes, the mys and the self-ishness of public prayers.

#### Instruction in Humility

Luke 14:7-11; Matt. 18:1-5

Mark 9:33-37; John 13:2-5

Humility means to lie on the ground. It is the doormat attitude and the rag-mop willingness to do the menial tasks without being

asked, forced or compelled. It is that quality of soul and life that absorbs the mean, the ugly and the sordid without being disturbed or agitated. What is your definition or illustration of humility? Is it the greatest of all Christian virtues?

From the readings, the twelve were lacking in humility. They were anxious about first place, the highest seat of honor. They wanted to know who was greatest, the most influential, the most popular. Their conception of greatness was to sit in the seat of honor. James and John had asked for these seats—one on the right and the other on the left. They dreamed of places of distinction. They were possessed with jealousy, angry disputes and anxiety about pre-eminence. Vanity and presumption, jealousy and envy about places, offices and positions have bred more churches and church organization than any other factors. Make a survey of your community for churches that split over who would be pastor or who would be deacon or who would be president of the missionary society. Pride, ambition and vainglory are bad partners and can do much harm among so-called good people whose life is above reproach as far as sex relations go. They are self-willed, mean-spirited, stubborn and out of harmony with the total church. They ever have an eye to their own glory though they say they are glorifying God. The demon of self-will is still in many disciples.

The childlike attitude and feelings are those of deep humility. Watch children play. They fall out but soon fall back in and keep on playing.

Read each of the given readings again. Self-forgetfulness finds its highest expression in Jesus Christ. See him as He washes the feet of

his servants when they should have been washing His. If you are having trouble living with people, see if the real cause is not in your inability to live with yourself.

Humility never asks for an apology or a confession of wrong. It never seeks to get even or to take revenge. I call humility the sanitary department of true religion. It hauls away all filth, trash and debris and keeps you feeling sweet inside. This was one of the greatest needs of the twelve.

#### Little Faith and Big Faith Matt. 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8

These readings show the littleness of faith of those who should have been strong and vigorous in faith. Note the tenor of the next readings:

Matt. 8:2; 8:10; 9:18; 9:28; 14:36; 15:28; Mark 5:28.

Jesus knew that the twelve were men of alternating faiths—little and big, strong and weak. Thus throughout His training program, He emphasized faith. He made faith the most indispensable element in prayer and the one great factor in the production of good relations. There must be a great faith.

As you read these scriptures, read the whole chapter. Get the background of the reading. Discuss it fully in the light of your own experience and in the light of Heb. 11. The mainstay of my personal life (the author's) Mark 11:24 and Mark 9:23 have been essential supports. Try faith. Try humility. Try prayer. There will be an upsurge in your feelings and outlook on life.

#### For Research and Discussion

1. Praying and saying the Lord's Prayer is one and the same thing. True or false?
2. The twelve were men of slow understanding, weak faith and seekers after first places. True or false?
3. Define and illustrate prayer, humility and faith.
4. How many churches in your community came out of another church? Make a survey for a factual answer.
5. Find out and report on the history of the officers of your church and see how many came from other churches and why.
6. Survey the Bible for those who Prayed longest, showed the greatest faith and were humble. Check the humility of Moses.

#### Study XIII

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### The Initial and Final Commisison

(Community and World Ventures)

Matt. 10:5-20; Luke 9:1-6, 10; Mark 6:7-13

#### The Initial or Community Venture

Here community means within the boundary of racial community. The mission is to their own people. They

were sent in pairs according to one of the readings and were to have power over unclean spirits. They were to heal the sick by anointing