



THINK ON THESE THINGS.....

Reading: Luke 6:12-19

12 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. 13 When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: 14 Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, 15 Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, 16 Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

17 He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, 18 who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, 19 and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Reflection:

The most amazing fact about Jesus calling his disciples was that they were just ordinary people. Jesus didn't require particularly gifted, or highly resourced individuals. Rather, he chose a diverse group of people from many of the different groups in his society. The disciples he called would not naturally have loved one another. There were entrepreneurs who would have hated the tax collector. There were zealots— freedom fighters—who would generally have been willing to assassinate the tax collector. There were those who had assimilated into Greco-Roman culture (which was frowned upon by Jews) and those who were legalistic in their Jewish identity. There were even brothers who had a bad case of sibling rivalry (James and John, the sons of thunder, as Jesus called them).

Jesus did not call this group together to accomplish great things— although they did end up changing the world in significant ways. The main reason Jesus called them was to demonstrate that it actually is possible for people who are so very different to learn to love one another. He brought together natural enemies and transformed them into brothers and sisters who loved and served one another selflessly. It is said that St. Augustine came to faith exactly for this reason, the love believers had for one another.

I have been really moved by the amazing ways our church family have rallied around each other during this extremely challenging time, and in so doing have demonstrated the love of Christ in their actions. Thank you for your continued prayers and for your practical acts of kindness – this is exactly what loving God is all about!

Breath-Prayer for Today: Lord Jesus, teach me to love others as you have loved me, as I continue to pray and serve those who are in need.

