

Five!

Jesus Spends All Night in Prayer Luke 6:12

I Position of this verse

A- In plan of book

- 1- General look backwards.
- 2- General look forwards.

B- In unit

- 1- Connection with preceding verse.
- 2- Connection with preceding unit.
- 3- Other connections

a- Rejection at Nazareth

b- Popularity with multitudes

II Characteristics

A- Significant time relation to past and future

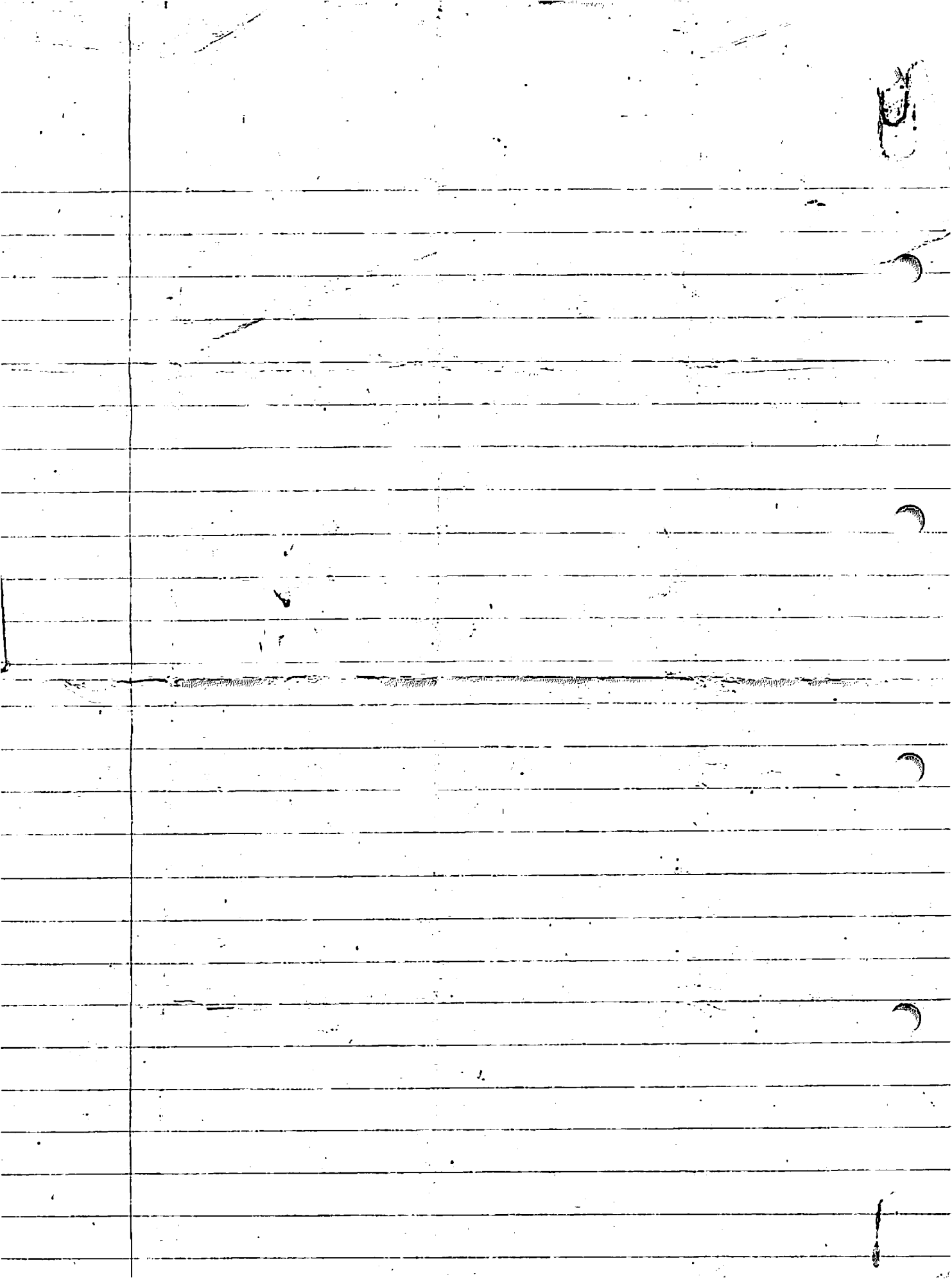
B- Immediate effectiveness -

Contribution to Luke's narrative

III Life values

A- Circumstances present frequent crises.

B- Fruits of prayer in such cases.



JESUS SPENDS ALL NIGHT IN PRAYER

Luke 6:12 "And it came to pass in these days,
that he went out into the mountain to pray;
and he continued all night in prayer to God."

Right here in the middle of the first section of Luke, where the author is trying to create certainty in the mind of a friend called Theophilus by in Jesus ~~text~~ by showing how those associating with Him came to realize him as Christ, there is inserted this brief statement of how Jesus spent a night during his bus ministry. Luke has told now of the preparation for the coming of Jesus and of His birth with all its attendant supernatural circumstances. He has shown how Jesus has met and overcome ~~public and private~~ private and public temptations and has demonstrated his power ~~over~~ in the natural and spiritual world. He has told how Jesus affirmed that he was the Son of God and how this fact has been confirmed by God Himself, by demons, and even by Satan himself. Apparently Jesus has a great future before him. Why should one endowed with such power of word and deed, the acknowledged Son of God, take time out on a lonely mountain side to pray? Our answer comes as we look a little more closely ~~at the~~ surroundings of this verse to see what was going on "in these days." The preceding verse tells us that some men were angry with Jesus and were plotting against him. Who should want to harm such a Person as Jesus? Looking back further we see that these men were the spiritual leaders of the Jews, Scribes and Pharisees whose domination in the spiritual life of these people had been threatened by Jesus who was now assuming what they considered their lawful place. What else besides this opposition was going on "in these days?" Jesus had been rudely ejected from Nazareth by his own townspeople, but the multitudes were receiving him gladly, pressing about him in such numbers that recently he had had to get into a boat and put out a little from land in order to speak to them. Spreading reports and rumors were bringing greater fame to Jesus. Jesus now saw that that it was time to concentrate his ministry on some definite objective or else his enemies would do away with him immediately or he would be swept off his feet by the ~~popular~~ hero-worship of the multitudes. And so, "it came to pass in these days, that he went out into the mountain to pray." His whole future is at stake and Luke realizes that he must utilize this incident as important in the future development of the ~~book~~ narrative where a select group come to a full realization of the nature of Jesus. "And he continued all night in prayer to God." Alone with His Father, Jesus ~~was~~ labored all night long in prayer and at day break the next day he was ready to take steps towards a new project. That night of prayer furnished Jesus with a plan, a method of accomplishing the plan, and a power to carry it out. He now concentrates His ministry by selecting twelve men, teaching them by word and example, and finally causes them to see the answer to the question which so many are asking in regard to Himself. Truly great things were accomplished because "he continued all night in prayer to God." And are there not values here for each of us? When crises arise in our lives we can turn in prayer to God and be sure, even as was our Lord, of receiving a new outlook on life, perhaps a reforming of our objectives, and surely the power to go forth ~~and~~ accomplishing great things for Him.

Joe Hopper

LEWIS SPENDS ALL NIGHT IN PRAYER

Luke 1:12 "And it came to pass in these days,

that he went out into a mountain to pray;

and he continued all night in prayer to God."

right here in the middle of the first section of Luke, where the author is trying to create certainty in the mind of a friend called Theophilus by in Jesus but by showing how those associating with him came to realize him as Christ, there is inserted the brief statement of how Jesus spent a night during his ministry. Luke has told us of the preparation for the coming of Jesus and of his birth with all its attendant supernatural circumstances. He has shown how Jesus has met and overcome ~~temptations~~ private and public temptations and has demonstrated his power over nature and spiritual world. He has told how Jesus affirmed that he was the Son of God and how this fact has been confirmed by God himself, by demons, and even by Satan himself. Apparently Jesus has a great future before him. He should be one endowed with such power of word and deed, the acknowledged Son of God, take time out on a lonely mountain side to pray? Our answer comes as we look a little more closely ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~wordings~~ of this verse to see what was going on "in these days." The preceding verse tells us that some men were angry with Jesus and were plotting against him. ~~Looking back further we see~~ that these men were the spiritual leaders of the Jews, Pharisees and Sadducees whose domination in the spiritual life of these ~~days~~ had been threatened by Jesus who was now assuming that they considered their lawful place. What else besides this opposition was going on "in these days?" Jesus had been rejected from Nazareth by his own townspeople but the multitudes were receiving him gladly, pressing about him in such numbers that recently he had had to get into a boat and put out a little from land in order to speak to them. Spreading reports and rumors were bringing greater fame to Jesus. Jesus now saw that that it was time to concentrate his ministry on some definite objective or else his enemies would do away with him immediately or he would be swept off his feet by the ~~crowd~~ ~~hero-wor-~~ship of the multitudes. And so, "it came to pass in these days, that he went out into the mountain to pray." His whole future is at stake and Luke realizes that he must utilize this incident as important in the future development of the ~~text~~ narrative where a select group come to a full realization of the nature of Jesus. "And he continued all night in prayer to God." Alone with his Father, Jesus was laboring all night long in prayer and at day break the next day he was ready to take steps towards a new project. That night of prayer furnished Jesus with a plan, a method of accomplishing the plan and a power to carry it out. He now concentrates his ministry by selecting twelve men, teaching them by word and example, and finally causes them to see the answer to the question which so many are asking in regard to himself. Truly great things were accomplished because "he continued all night in prayer to God." And are there not values here for each of us? When crises arise in our lives we can turn in prayer to God and be sure, even as was our Lord, of receiving a new outlook on life, perhaps a reordering of our objectives, and surely the power to go forth and accomplish great things for the