

Church – The Beginnings, Part 4

The Foundations – The Book of Acts

Acts 1:12-26 | 11/20/2016

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Acts 1:12-26

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

¹⁵ And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, ¹⁶ "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; ¹⁷ for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."

¹⁸ (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ "For it is written in the Book of Psalms:

'Let his dwelling place be desolate, and let no one live in it';
and, Let another take his office.'

²¹ "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

²³ And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

After the Ascension – for 10 Days Before the Day of Pentecost:

1. They OBEYED Christ's call to wait in Jerusalem

Jesus commanded them to wait, and they did.

Obedience is the outworking of Personal **Trust** in Christ, or what we call **Faith**.

2. All the 11 were there, including Mary the Mother of Jesus – a total of 120 disciples:

- a. They continued in one accord in **Prayer** – for 10 days (50 days minus 40 days)
- b. They included **Scripture Reading** in their time together (verse 16)
- c. **They organized The First Church Business Meeting** – verses 16 thru 26
- d. The last time "**LOTS**" are used for deciding what God answered in Prayer.
(see Proverbs 16:33 & 18:18)

3. Analysis – So what just happened?:

- a. **Obedience** – This is a historical record of the Apostles, and at least 120 showing up and obeying God. So, where's the rest of the 1000's that were touched by Christ's Earthly Ministry?

How many 1000's were impacted by Christ's earthly ministry? Why weren't they there? God in human flesh, and only 120?

- b. **These 102 were the CORE by Which Christ started the Church, the New Covenant Church. They SHOWED up, Learned, Trusted, and Obeyed.** Remember this, regarding following God and in our making of disciples. Sometimes 90% of the Victory is showing up. In Leadership Development within the Body of Christ, pastors look for those who show up, who are loyal, obedient to God, and are willing to not go along with the crowd, but follow Jesus, even if it is by themselves. **True Warriors For Christ** – “though none go with me, still I will follow ...” Those 120 were fully surrendered, fully committed, fully dedicated, fully devoted followers of Christ. No Matter What! No Compromise! Take No Prisoners! (kind of attituded)
Would you have been there? Would you have dared to be there?
- c. **Prayer – Notice that they Prayed for 10 days ... the Foundations of the Church are Jesus Christ, The Word of God, and Prayer (of course, along with the Holy Spirit). But prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit, they Prayed.** They were seeking God's Face. They were probably afraid of the Jewish and Roman Authorities. But, I think, watching Jesus Christ ascend to Heaven and seeing the angels, etc. quelled some of those fears.
They were **Serious** about Following Christ and Praying for Long hours and over many days means that you are **NOT** a Casual Disciple of Christ.
- d. **Was having a Church Business Meeting and choosing the 12th Apostle to Replace Judas on the list of things Christ told them to do?**
I am not sure either. They used Scripture and very wise logic, as well.
The person that was going to fill Judas spot as the 12th (capital “A”) Apostle had to be someone, according to them, that started about the same time that the rest of them did. They thought this through. They felt that they were correct in their reasoning, but we have no indication that this was what Christ wanted them to do.

Yet, based on the rest of the book of Acts and the rest of the Bible, we never hear too much about Matthias after that, but we do hear a lot about another Apostle, chosen by Christ, himself.
What does that say about how the 12th pick was from God's point of view?

Lesson: Sometimes we can choose, elect, and think we are doing the right and very practical thing and even use lots of Scripture to back it up, but God has the **FINAL** Say in hugely important things like this. -- **Yes**, things like who are the **ORIGINAL** 12 Apostles, after Judas committed suicide.

➔ Remember in Revelation 21 – the 12 Foundations Stones of the Wall of the New Jerusalem are Named after the 12 Apostles of the Lamb. Is Matthias the 12th or is **Paul**?

4. How does this relate to us?

- a. **OBEDIENCE: surrendered, committed, devoted, dedicated Obedience needs to be our first action regarding following Jesus Christ according to His Word, always. Whether we fully understand everything or not.**
- b. **PRAYER: Prayer is a part of obedience, but it also is our way of talking with and having a RELATIONSHIP with God. He wants us to pray to Him all the times (see Luke 18) Group Prayer is also vital to the Fellowship aspect of being a local church family. The Word of God and Prayer bring UNITY.**
- c. **MAKING DECISIONS: we might think we are being led by God about something. We might have all the Scripture, Wisdom, Logic, and Criteria about it. Allow God to have the FINAL SAY – allow God to Confirm by the witness of two or three regarding whatever it is. And let God's Spirit, according to His Word, lead you.**

Note: After the Day of Pentecost, Lots are NEVER cast to make decisions by the church.
From that point forward, God, the Holy Spirit would direct the church in such matters.