

# The Apostolic Replacement

## Acts 1:12-26

### Introduction

#### Chapter one is transitional and preparational.

God works through the means of *people*, *places*, and *prayers* here on earth.

1. The Preeminence of Places, Persons, and Prayer (vv12-14)
2. The Elimination of Judas Iscariot (vv15-20)
3. The Addition of Mattias (vv21-26)

#### I. The Preeminence of Places, Persons, and Prayer (vv12-14)

##### A. **Place:** *Jerusalem, "the upper room"* (v12-13a)

Out of obedience to Jesus' instructions, the apostles return to *Jerusalem* and to "the upper room" from "the mount called Olivet."

##### B. **Persons:** the eleven disciples "*with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers*" (13b, 14b).

*"the women"*

*"Mary the mother of Jesus"*

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"* (Luke 1:46-47).

*"and his brothers"* Jesus had four half-brothers, James, Judas, Joseph, and Simon.

##### C. **Prayer:** "*all these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer*" (v14a)

*"all these with one accord"*

Prayer was the hallmark of the early church. Corporate prayer unified the early church.

*"devoting themselves"* Gk *proskartereo*; 'to attend, to give oneself continually upon.'

Devotion to prayer should characterize the church life corporately and the life of every believer individually.

“devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

The apostles: “we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4).

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” (Romans 12:12).

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13).

### **All those who have Christ, have the Holy Spirit.**

Romans 8:9-11

All those who have been saved in Jesus Christ have been *sealed* by His Spirit.

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee” (2 Corinthians 1:20-22).

### **The Holy Spirit given to us at the moment of salvation unites us in one Body.**

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

## **II. The Elimination of Judas Iscariot (vv15-20)**

“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus” (v16).

*“opened their minds to understand the Scriptures”* (Luke 24:38).

*“For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry”* (v17).

Judas had been divinely appointed by God to fulfill His plan for His Sacrifice and our salvation.

“this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God” (2:23).

A. Judas betrayed Jesus unto His death on a tree.

*“Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus” (16b).*

*“They put him to death by hanging him on a tree” (Acts 10:39).*

B. Judas betrayed Jesus unto his own death by hanging himself on a tree.

*“Judas, his betrayer...went and hanged himself” (Matthew 27:3, 5).*

Peter provides supplementary information to Judas’ hanging (vv18-19, 25)

### III. The Addition of Matthias (vv21-26)

The twelfth apostolic office must be filled in order to fulfill Scripture and parallel the 12 tribes.

A. Loyal follower of Jesus from the beginning of His earthly ministry (v21-22a).

*“So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John” (vv21-22a).*

B. Witness to the resurrection of Jesus (v22b).

*“until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection” (22b).*

*“And they put forward two, Joseph...and Matthias” (v23).*

C. Jesus chooses those who will represent Him (vv24-25).

*“And they prayed and said, ‘You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen’” (Acts 1:24).*

*“the apostles whom he had chosen” (1:2).*

*“And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles” (Luke 6:13).*

*“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide” (John 15:16).*

Jesus Himself chooses the man who will *“take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place” (v25).*

D. Believers submit two qualified candidates and resort to an OT custom (v23, v26)

*“The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord” (Proverbs 16:33).*

***“And we are witnesses...”***

Acts 10:39-43

Jesus chose His apostles as a witness. And He chose those who will carry on His work as witnesses.

The term ‘witness’ has two meanings:

- 1) something personally observed.
- 2) an act of testifying to something believed.

As Christians in the ongoing Church Age we have been chosen to continue the witness for Jesus Christ.

Last week: *The Ascension of Jesus Christ*; this week: *The Apostolic Replacement*; next week: *The Advent of the Holy Spirit*.