

Sermon Notes

**“Waiting, Praying, Choosing”
from Acts Chapter 1 verses 12 to 26**

A few things I need to remember from hearing today’s Bible Reading and Teaching.

The Bible Reading

Acts Chapter 1 verses 12-26

¹² ...The apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk[a] from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. ¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those

who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.”

¹⁸ (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹ Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ “For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms:

“May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,¹[Psalm 69:25]

and, “May another take his place of leadership.”²[Psalm 109:10]

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

²³ So they nominated two men:

Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias.

²⁴ Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.”

²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles. (NIV)

[a] From Exod. 16: 29 and Num. 35: 5 a Sabbath day walk was about 1.2 km

An Introduction

Verses 1 to 11 tell us what happened over the forty days after Jesus had risen from the dead. They reinforce to the man Theophilus (like ourselves and all readers who have not seen Jesus or witnessed his resurrection) the reality of the resurrection of Jesus, what he then spoke to them about before his ascension (Luke 24) and what the next stage of Jesus’ ministry through the Apostles by the Holy Spirit would be until his return. They do as Jesus has told them. They return to Jerusalem, stay and wait. Verses 12 to 26 occurs within the ten days from the Ascension of Jesus to the day of Pentecost when they are baptised with the Holy Spirit. While they wait they pray and choose. With the defection and death of Judas Iscariot another was to fill the “witnessing” role. Who would be chosen? Who would do the choosing? In these verses we learn who was chosen. But also about the Churches origins, their unity in purpose, their devotion to keeping in communication with God and their understanding of the knowledge of and guidance from God by depending on the Old Testament and the Holy Spirit.

A prayer.

Almighty God and loving heavenly Father, guide me and teach me of yourself from your Word. Help me and others to see the wisdom and value of living life according to your word the

Bible; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Read Acts Chapter 1:12 to 26

(See over)

The Bible Study Questions

1. Having read the passage, what are your first impressions about the early church and why?
2. When back in Jerusalem we read the early Church waited and while they waited they prayed. What were they waiting for? Do you pray when you’re waiting for God to keep his promises?
3. There is not just one reason for why another needed to replace Judas. How many reasons can you find in the verses and what would you consider to be the main reason?
4. Nowhere else in the New Testament do we read of the church casting lots for God’s knowledge or guidance. Drawing on verses from the New Testament why would that be?
5. What do we learn from these verses about the churches knowledge of God and relationship with Him? What could we learn from their example?

Close with prayer considering what you’ve learnt