

“With One Accord In Prayer And Supplication”

Acts 1:12-26

Message by Michael J. Barnard

October 16, 2022

Teaching Aim: To explore the immediate aftermath of the ascension of Jesus Christ and the changes that took place in the lives of His disciples. To realize 120 believers gathered in the upper room where they prayed in one accord while they awaited the promised Holy Spirit of God to come. To examine the circumstances surrounding the death and burial of Judas Iscariot. To observe the process the disciples used in finding a replacement for Judas.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Following the ascension, the followers of Jesus Christ were in one accord in prayer and supplication (Acts 1:12-14)

1. **Acts 1:1-11**, explores the circumstances surrounding the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven. Following the ascension, the disciples went back to the upper room in Jerusalem where they remained in prayer and supplication. According to **verse 12**, how far of a walk was it from the eastern side of the Mount of Olives where the ascension took place to the upper room in Jerusalem? (See Commentaries)
2. How do you think the apostles felt after witnessing the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven? Who were the disciples instructed to wait for in Jerusalem? (See **Acts 1:4**) Why? (See **Acts 1:8**) How has your life changed since coming to faith in Christ?
3. According to **verse 13**, who were the eleven remaining apostles after the death of Judas? What other names are found in the Bible for the apostles Bartholomew and Judas the son of James? (See **John 1:45; 21:2; Matt. 10:3; Mark 3:18**)
4. Christ-followers meeting in “*one accord*” should be a mark of every true church (**vs. 4**). This phrase is found 6x in the Book of Acts. What did Luke mean when he wrote, “*These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication*”? Does this mean that every disciple agreed on every detail of life? If not, then what does it mean? Why is it important for the true church to stand together today in one accord? (See **John 17:20-21**) Should we stand together with churches that teach heresy? Why or why not?

5. **Verse 14** is one of the sweetest verses in the Bible. Who did Luke specifically mention as being present in the upper Room? Note: This is the last time that Jesus' mother Mary is mentioned by name in the New Testament. It is important to note that the disciples were not praying "to" Mary, but rather "with" Mary. They were all praying in one accord to God. Why is it so important for believers to pray? How would you rate your prayer life?
6. In **John 7:4b-5**, we learn that the brothers of Jesus did not believe in him, in fact at that point in His ministry they were mocking Him. What was the likely turning point that brought the half-brothers of Jesus to faith? (See **1 Cor. 15:3-7**) The Bible tells us that James, the half-brother of Jesus became a pillar in the early church. What else did James and His brother Judas (or Jude) go on to do?

Part II: The death of Judas and the need to find his replacement (Acts 1:15-20)

1. According to **verse 15**, how many people were gathered in the upper room? Who stood up in the midst of the disciples and began to give them direction? Note: The events in **Acts 1:12-26** took place in the ten days between the ascension of Jesus Christ and Pentecost. What message did Peter bring to the disciples in **verses 16-17**?
2. Peter referred to **Psalms 41:9** in **verses 16 & 17**. Who else referred to this same Old Testament verse in **John 13:18-19**? According to Peter, was David writing on his own in **Psalms 41:9**, or was the Holy Spirit directing him as he wrote 1,000 years before Christ?
3. What can we learn about the inspiration of Scripture from **2 Peter 1:20-21** and **2 Timothy 3:16-17**? If ever asked, how would you explain the transmission of Scripture to a friend?
4. Some have felt there is a conflict between the two accounts of the death of Judas. Is there? (See **Acts 1:18-20**; **Matt. 27:1-10**) What does **Matt. 27:3-5** teach us about the death of Judas? What additional information does **Acts 1:18** give us about the aftermath of this event? How can we tie both accounts together?

5. What was the field named that Judas was buried in? How was this field purchased? With whose money? Was Judas truly repentant or was he just sorry things hadn't gone the way he planned? When it comes to repentance, what is the difference between "attrition" and "contrition?" What can we learn about Judas from **Matt. 26:23-24** and **2 Pet. 2:20-21**? Are there degrees of punishment in hell in the same sense that there are degrees of blessing in heaven? If so, how?

6. In **verse 20**, Peter combined two Old Testament verses to make his point. How did Peter combine **Psalm 69:25** and **Psalm 109:8** to come up with his conclusion? Augustine said, "*The New is in the Old concealed; the Old is by the New revealed.*" What did Augustine mean? Why is it important for us to study the Old Testament today?

Part III: Matthias chosen as the twelfth apostle (Acts 1:21-26)

1. What three qualifications were laid out by Peter for the twelfth apostle? (**Vv. 21-22**)? Out of the 120 people present, which two individuals came out as the cream of the crop (**vs. 23**)? What is the meaning of the name "Barsabas?" (See Commentaries) What is the meaning of the name "Matthias?" What can we know about these two men by the fact that they were chosen?

2. What was the essence of the disciple's prayer as revealed in **verses 24-25**? After an extensive selection process, two names remained. Who did the disciples turn to for the final choice? (See **John 6:70**) What tool was used to seek God's will on this matter? Is this the same as gambling or casting dice? What is the difference? What can we learn from the following verses about lots? (See **Lev. 16:7-10; Josh. 18:1-10; Prov. 16:33**) What are the Urim and Thummim? (See **Exod. 28:30; Lev. 8:8; Num. 27:21; Ezra 2:63; Neh. 7:65**) Are lots similar to the Urim and Thummim? If so, how?

3. When all was said and done, who was selected by lot to be the twelfth disciple? Note: It is interesting that after this mention of Matthias, we hear no more of him in Scripture by name. Some believe Peter made a mistake in searching for a twelfth apostle to replace Judas, but did he? Some believe the Lord Jesus actually intended to select the Apostle Paul to be the twelfth disciple. (See **Acts 9:1-9, 15,16**) According to the qualifications in **Acts 1:21-22**, did Paul meet all of these requirements? Which of the qualifications did he meet? Which did he not meet?

4. According to the following verses, did Paul consider himself included among the twelve? (See **1 Cor. 15:3-8**) Paul had a horrible reputation for persecuting the church. Did the apostles readily accept him into their numbers, or did it take some intervention? (See **Acts 9:26-27**). What does the name "*Barnabas*" mean?

5. What is the meaning of the word "*apostle*?" (See Dictionary) What is the difference between an "*apostle*" of Jesus Christ and a "*disciple*" of Jesus Christ? Are there modern apostles today in the same sense that the original twelve were apostles? Are there modern apostles in a lesser sense today than the original twelve? If so, who are they and what are they called?

6. As we finish **Acts chapter 1**, we find this small rag tag group waiting for the promised Holy Spirit and empowerment for ministry. When the Holy Spirit comes upon them in **Acts chapter 2**, everything will change. They will go on to turn the world upside down for Jesus! What are some ways that the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life has changed you? Are you willing to do your part in reaching the world for Christ?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- The ascension of Jesus Christ took place on the eastern slopes of the Mount of Olives.
- Following the ascension, the remaining disciples returned to Jerusalem as the Lord instructed and joined the other believers in the upper room.
- The disciples, along with Jesus' mother Mary, His half-brothers, the women who had accompanied them, and many others gathered together in one accord in prayer and supplication as they awaited the promised Holy Spirit of God.
- Peter recognized in Scripture the need to replace Judas with another apostle.
- Judas hung himself and apparently was later cut down causing the damages described in **Acts 1:18**.
- Matthias was chosen by lot to replace Judas.
- "*The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.*" (See **Prov. 16:33**)