

Replacing Judas: Mandated Assignment or Misplaced Effort?

Acts In Depth #2 – Acts 1:12-26

THE TRADITIONAL (MAJORITY) APPROACH:

The Traditional (Majority) Approach:

1. Peter Stands Up [Result of Prayer?] → Judas Is Dead (with Details)
2. Scripture Says to Find a Replacement → Let's Do It
3. Here Are the Qualifications of an Apostle → Here Are Two
4. Let's Use Lots to Choose Between Them → Matthias Chosen

YES to the Traditional (Majority) Approach?

1. Peter used Scripture as his motivation.
2. These men were Apostles.
3. Matthias was numbered with the Twelve.
4. No condemnation of the action is anywhere indicated.

A SECOND LOOK: CONSIDERATIONS & OBSERVATIONS

TIMELINE: Chronology Is Important

1. **The Parallel of Luke 24 and Acts 1:** Overlapping story...
2. **The Point of Empowerment:** *When were they enabled to lead?*
3. **The Apostles' Present State**

The Apostles were making bad choices (John 21:3), even having been told multiple times of their assigned mission (Mt 28:16-20), and were still misunderstanding the Scriptures **up to the time of Jesus' ascension** (1:6).

4. **Peter's Pattern Up to This Point**

JESUS: His Words and Actions Are Key

5. **Jesus' Instructions:**

- What **did** Jesus command the Apostles to do (1:4-5)?
And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father
- What did Jesus **not** command the Apostles to do?

6. **Jesus' Inaction:** *What did Jesus Himself not do after His resurrection?*

PETER: His Words and Actions Reviewed

7. **Concern with the Context of the Scriptures Quoted**

Ps 41:9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up [his] heel against me. – **OK**

Ps 69:25 Let their dwelling place be desolate; Let no one live in their tents.
– **General; Plural**

Ps 109:8-12 Let his days be few, [And] let another take his office.⁹ Let his children be fatherless, And his wife a widow. ... - ???

Maranatha Baptist Church – Kevin Subra – December 14, 2022

8. **Concern with the Application of the Scriptures Quoted**

- Where is the direct responsibility for application come from?
- Why not apply the verses regarding his dwelling?

9. **Concern with the Qualifications Given by Peter**

²¹ “Therefore, of these men [adult males] 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.”

- With us since Jesus' baptism up to the ascension (including witness of Jesus' resurrection)
- Where did these (this?) come from? [Not used for them.]
- What is missing from other qualification lists?
- Does appointing someone confer needed ability?

10. **Concern with Peter's Limiting of God**

- Limiting God to the stated qualifications
- Limiting God to the choice between two men
- Limiting God to the man-selected method (lots)
- Limiting God to making man's choice work (through prayer)

Peter defines, without specific direction from God, the need, the qualifications to be considered, the method of choosing, and the choices from which God must choose.

SUMMARY: Major Takeaways

1. **This incident illustrates the impact of the arrival of the Holy Spirit.** *Only the Holy Spirit empowered and enabled the Apostles to serve. It appears that prior to Pentecost, the Apostles were not “endued with power” to perceive truth clearly or perform properly.*
2. **Good intentions are noble but inadequate by themselves.** *They cannot override our misunderstanding, misinterpretation, or misapplication of Scripture. It is possible to mean well while going down a wrong path based on a wrong understanding of Scripture. Inappropriate actions are possible, even though well-intended.*
3. **Scripture must be rightly interpreted and rightly applied to be useful for the purpose for which Scripture was written.** *This incident serves as an exhortation against the inexact interpretation or application of Scripture. Understanding the correct recipient is of key importance to understanding a passage of Scripture.*
4. **Prayer will not supernaturally transform misapplication into good.** *Prayer does not bypass the truth but engages the truth.*