

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

The Election of Matthias

Acts 1:15-26

Last week in Acts 1:1-14 the disciples were awaiting the Holy Spirit to come upon them just as Jesus promised. Here, in verses 15-26, Peter reminds the disciples of the Holy Spirit's prophecy in Psalm through David. Peter also notes Judas' betrayal and his suicidal death which lead to the vacancy of having one less apostle. In today's study, Matthias is elected to fill this vacancy, just as prophesied by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:15-26

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.

1. What do you suppose prompted Peter to speak of electing another apostle?
2. Why was it important to discuss Judas' betrayal, death, and replacement?
3. What is Akel Dama (Field of Blood)?
4. From today verses, list the qualifications to be an apostle? Based on these qualifications are there any apostles today?
5. Share an experience when you felt the Holy Spirit tugging on your heart to do something and you disobeyed/obeyed. What did you learn?